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Applicant : Hironobu KIYOMOTO et al.
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

VERIFICATION OF TRANSLATION

I, Kiyohide OKAMOTO of OMRON Corporation, hereby declare as follows:

- (1) I am fluent in both the Japanese and English languages;
- (2) I have read both the translation of the above-identified application from Japanese to English and the original Japanese text;
- (3) The English translation is a true and correct translation of the above-identified application to the best of my knowledge; and
- (4) That all statements made are of my own knowledge, are true, and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001, and that such false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date: November 15, 2001

By: Kiyohide Okamoto

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OPTICAL DEVICE AND AN APPARATUS EMPLOYING THE SAME

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001]

This invention relates to an optical device and an apparatus
5 employing the optical device.

[0002]

(Light Emission Source)

In a conventional light emission source in which a light emitting
diode is sealed in a mold resin, light emitted from the light emitting
10 diode to its front is emitted from the light emission source as it
is, but light emitted in a diagonal direction from the light emitting
diode is totally reflected on a boundary surface of the mold resin
and scattered in an inside wall of a housing to be lost, resulting
into deterioration of use efficiency of light.

15 [0003]

Heretofore, there has been proposed a light emission source
capable of efficiently emitting the light emitted in a diagonal
direction which is disclosed in the Japanese Laid-Open Patent
Publication No. Hei 1-143368. Fig. 1 shows a sectional side view of
20 a light emission source including a light emitting diode 1, a transparent
glass substrate 2, lead frames 3 and 4, a bonding wire 5, a light
emitting member 6, and a mold resin 8 made of an optically transparent

transparent glass substrate 2, and the light emitting diode 1 is mounted on a rear wall of the lead frame 3 to be connected with the lead frame 4 by the bonding wire 5. A light reflecting wall 7 of the light reflecting member 6 is formed as a polyhedron by plural monotonous surfaces.

5 [0004]

In this conventional light emission source, light is emitted backside from the light emitting diode 1 to be reflected by the reflecting wall 7 and emitted forward through the mold resin 8 and the transparent glass substrate 2. In particular, light emitted from the light emitting
10 diode 1 in a diagonal direction is reflected back by the reflection wall 7 to be emitted forward through the mold resin 8 and the transparent glass substrate 2, thereby improving the light use efficiency.

[0005]

This conventional light emission source, however, has the
15 disadvantage that light reflected by the light reflecting member is obstructed by the light emitting diode and the lead frames when it is emitted forward, thereby producing shadows of these components and deteriorating the advantage of utilization of light near the optical axis center where quantity of light should be provided most well.
20 Furthermore, because of darkness near the optical axis center in the directional pattern of light emitted by the light emission source, its appearance is bad as a light source for a display, and its visual

[0006]

Fig. 2 shows a side sectional view of conventional another light emission source, wherein a light emitting diode 1 such as an LED chip is die-bonded on a leading edge of one lead frame 3 to be connected with another lead frame 4 by means of a bonding wire 5, which is sealed in a transparent mold resin 8. On a central part of a front wall (resin boundary surface) of the mold resin 8, there is disposed a lens portion 9 so as to agree with an optical axis of the light emitting diode 1.

[0007]

10 In this conventional light emission source of Fig. 2, the light emitting diode 1 is not positioned behind the lead frame 3, and light emitted from the light emitting diode 1 is emitted forward from the lens portion 9 without any obstruction.

[0008]

15 In this conventional light emission source, however, only light emitted from the light emitting diode 1 to its front is used for external emission, thereby decreasing the use efficiency of light. Moreover, just one light emission source becomes so-called point light source, so that the light emission area cannot be enlarged.

20 [0009]

(Photo Detector)

For example, a photodiode serving as a sensor is improved about

photoelectric transducer increases an electric energy as the light requirement is increased. Accordingly, it is desirable in these photo detectors to increase the light requirement as far as possible.

[0010]

5 In order to increase the light requirement when the intensity of incident light is the same, it is an approach to increase the light receiving area of the photo detector. However, this approach to increase the chip area of the photo detector reduces the number of chips which can be taken from one piece of monocrystal wafer, resulting
10 into large increase of the manufacturing cost.

[0011]

Moreover, it is another approach to dispose an optical lens ahead of a photo detector to condense the light striking against the lens to the photo detector. This photo detector needs a large optical
15 lens, and the thickness is increased by the spacing between the photo detector and the lens, whereby the element becomes a large-scale.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0012]

It is, therefore, a first object of this invention to provide
20 an optical device such as a light emission source or a light receiver provided with a desired directional pattern.

[0013]

efficiency of the light emitted from a solid light emitter such as a light emitting diode.

[0014]

It is a third object of this invention to increase a light emission
5 area of the light emitted from a solid light emitter such as a light emitting diode.

[0015]

It is a fourth object of this invention to raise the light
receiving efficiency of a photo diode or a photoelectric transducer
10 by making the light receiving area big.

[0016]

It is a fifth object of this invention to raise the assembly
accuracy of a light emission source and a light receiver and make the
manufacturing easy.

15 [0017]

It is a sixth object of this invention to suppress degradation
of the visual performance of a light emission source or a component
employing the same when it is viewed from a lower part thereof (for
example, ground) by disturbance light.

20 [0018]

A first optical device according to this invention includes
a light emitting element having a boundary surface for almost totally

element, and a light reflecting member, in which the optical element, the resin boundary surface and the light reflecting member are positioned so that a light path from the optical element to the external of the optical device can reflect back at least more than once with each of the resin boundary surface and the light reflecting member. The optical element is represented by a light emitter such as a light emitting diode, or a photo detector such as a photo diode or a photoelectric transducer. According to this optical device, the light deviated from the predetermined area is reflected by the resin boundary surface and the light reflecting member in the light path between the optical element and the front of the optical device, whereby a desired directional pattern may be realized by the configuration of the resin boundary surface and the light reflecting member, and the optical device may be thinned.

15 [0019]

In a first light emission source according to this invention, a light emitter is positioned to be covered by a resin so that the light deviated from a predetermined front area in the light emitted from the light emitter is almost totally reflected by a resin boundary surface, and a light reflecting member is disposed behind the resin boundary surface so as to reflect the light emitted from the light emitter and almost totally reflected by the resin boundary surface

reflecting the light may be a boundary surface between the resin and air or between the resin and other resin or a multilayer light reflecting film.

[0020]

5 In this first light emission source, the light almost totally reflected by the resin covering the light emitter is reflected by the light reflecting member to be emitted forwardly, thereby improving the use efficiency of light. The light directly emitted forward by the light emitter can be emitted forward without any obstruction by
10 the light emitter itself, thereby further improving the use efficiency of light and the directional pattern without darkening a center of light emission source. Moreover, the directive pattern of the light emitted from the light emission source may be optionally varied by changing the configuration of the resin boundary surface and the light
15 reflecting member.

[0021]

 According to a first aspect of the first light emission source, at least a part of the resin boundary surface slants against a plane perpendicular to an optical axis of the light emitter in an area
20 contacting with the above-mentioned predetermined area. In the light emission source of the first aspect, most of the light beams emitted from the light emitter to the boundary of the resin boundary surface

than the critical angles of total reflection of the light reaching the resin boundary surface. By making the angle between the light reaching the boundary of the resin boundary surface from the light emitter and the optical axis of the light emitter smaller than the critical angle of the total reflection, the light emitted from the light emitter by a smaller angle against the optical axis than the critical angle of the total reflection in the resin boundary surface is totally reflected by the resin boundary surface and further reflected forward by the light reflecting member. As a result, the ratio of stray light in the predetermined area in a front of the light emitter is reduced and the use efficiency of light is improved. All light emitted from the light emitter to the boundary of the resin boundary surface and the predetermined area is not always necessary to have an angle to the optical axis smaller than the critical angle of the total reflection of light reaching the resin boundary surface. As far as the angles of most of light beams to the optical axis are smaller than the critical angle of total reflection of light reaching the resin boundary surface, such an effect can be expected.

[0022]

According to a second aspect of the first light emission source, at least a region of the light reflecting member reached by the light totally reflected by the resin boundary surface constitutes a concave

with respect to the resin boundary surface. According to the light emission source of this second aspect, the light reflected by the light reflecting member is emitted forward as approximately parallel light.

[0023]

5 According to a third aspect of the first light emission source, distribution field of curvature in the light reflecting surfaces of light reflecting member is different on a pair of mutually perpendicular sections crossing the optical axis of the light emitter. The difference of distribution field of curvature means that the distribution fields

10 of curvature are not the same, and includes the cases that the distribution fields are not mutually overlapped, the distribution fields are partially overlapped but mutually shifted, or one distribution field is wider than another distribution field.

[0024]

15 According to the light emission source of the third aspect, because of difference in the distribution fields of curvature in light reflecting plane of the light reflecting member on the mutually perpendicular two sections passing the optical axis of the light emitter, spread of the light reflected by the light reflecting surface varies

20 with its direction even if light emitted from the light emitter is emitted equally in a circumference of the optical axis. For instance, there may be provided a light emission source having an asymmetry

a directional pattern spreading sideways, depending on application.

[0025]

According to a fourth aspect of the light emission source of the third aspect, an optical lens disposed in a predetermined area in front of the light emitter, and the distribution fields of curvature on a surface of the optical lens are different on mutually perpendicular sections crossing the optical axis of the light emitter. The difference of distribution field of curvature has same meaning in the light reflecting member. According to the light emission source of the fourth aspect, the optical lens condenses the light emitted forward. Since the lens has an asymmetry configuration around the optical axis, the light emitted forward from the light emitter through the lens has a symmetry or ununiform directive pattern around the optical axis. Accordingly, for example, the light emitted forward from a center of the light emitter may be spread sideways on application.

[0026]

In a second light emission source of this invention including a light emission face in front of a light emitter, the light emission face inclines from a plane perpendicular to the optical axis of the light emitter, whereby disturbance light reflected by the light emission face can be avoided from going in the same direction as that of the light emitted from the light emission source by selecting

source is prevented from hindrance or invisible illumination by the disturbance light reflected by the light emission source.

[0027]

In a third light emission source having a light emission face
5 in front of a light emitter according to this invention, the light
emission face is disposed to turn to the top than horizontal, and at
least a part of the light emitted from the light emission face is emitted
toward lower part. Since the light emission face is disposed to turn
to the top than horizontal and at least a part of the light emitted
10 from the light emission face is emitted toward a lower part in this
third light emission source, disturbance light from low altitudes such
as the afternoon sun or the morning sun is hard to be reflected back
to the lower part even if an apparatus employing this light emission
source, for example, a display unit is installed in a high location.
15 On the other hand, since the light from the light emission source is
emitted downward, it can be avoided that the display is hard to be
seen or that lighting condition and lights-out condition are
misunderstood by disturbance light.

[0028]

20 According to a fifth aspect of the first light emission source,
a light emitter is positioned to be covered by a resin so that light
deviated from a predetermined area of front in the light emitted from

and a light reflecting member is positioned behind the resin boundary surface for reflecting the light emitted from the light emitter to be almost totally reflected by the resin boundary surface, wherein the light reflected by the light reflecting member is emitted slanting
5 against the optical axis of the light emitter. Since the light reflected by the light reflecting member is emitted slanting against the optical axis of the light emitter, the light emission direction can be positioned in a direction different from an installation direction of the light emission source. Accordingly, by emitting light
10 to a desired direction, for example, downward, and installing the light emission source upward, disturbance light such as the afternoon sun or the morning sun is prevented from downward reflection by the light emission source. In this light emission source, the light emitted in a direction having a large angle to the optical axis is totally
15 reflected by the resin boundary surface and further reflected forward by the light reflecting member to be emitted forward from the light emission source, thereby improving the use efficiency of light.

[0029]

According to a sixth aspect of the first light emission source,
20 at least a region of the light reflecting member reached by the light totally reflected by the resin boundary surface constitutes a concave mirror, and a light emitter is disposed in a location deviated from

to the resin boundary surface. The light can be emitted toward the optical axis declining against the front of the light emission source, thereby increasing the degrees of freedom of directional pattern of the light emission source.

5 [0030]

According to a seventh aspect of the first light emission source, there is provided a second light reflecting member reflecting the light emitted from a side of the light emitter in a forward direction, in which the angle of inclination of the second light reflecting member is set so that most of light reflected by the second light reflecting member can reach the resin boundary surface. The light emitted from the side of the light emitter is reflected by the second light reflecting member to be directly emitted to the external from the predetermined area without emission in a direction largely declining from the optical axis of the light emission source. In other words, the light emitted from the side of the light emitter is reflected by the second light reflecting member to be directed to the resin boundary surface, whereby the light totally reflected by the resin boundary surface is directed to the light reflecting member and its emission direction is controlled by the light reflecting member so as to emit the light in the optical axial direction of the light emission source.

[0031]

the seventh aspect, the second light reflecting member is disposed on a lead frame mounted by the light emitter. When the light emitter is disposed on the lead frame, the second light reflecting member may be made by the lead frame, thereby reducing the number of components.

5 [0032]

According to a ninth aspect of the first light emission source, at least a part of the light reflecting member comes into contact with an outer circumferential part of the resin composing the resin boundary surface. When the light emission source is produced by resin molding, 10 the light reflecting member can be positioned by hitting an internal circumference part of a metal mold cavity and a location accuracy of the light reflecting member can be easily obtained.

[0033]

In an light receiver molding a photo detector within a resin 15 according to this invention, a light reflecting member is disposed behind a boundary surface on a light receiving side of the resin so that it reflects the light entering into a region deviated from a predetermined area in front of the photo detector to be totally reflected by a resin boundary surface to be received by the photo detector.

20 [0034]

In this light receiver, the light entering into an outside of the photo detector is reflected by the light reflecting member to enter

surface, whereby the light receiving area of the light receiver is increased without increasing the area of the photo detector, thereby improving the light receiving efficiency of the light receiver.

Moreover, light is gathered by the light reflecting member located
5 behind the boundary surface on the light receiving side of the resin and the resin boundary surface, whereby the light receiver can have a relatively thinned configuration.

[0035]

According to a first aspect of the light receiver, at least
10 a part of the light reflecting member of the light receiver comes into contact with the outer circumferential part of the resin layer composing the resin boundary surface. According to the light receiver of the first aspect, when the light receiver is produced by resin molding, the light reflecting member can be positioned by hitting an internal
15 circumference part of a metal mold cavity and a location accuracy of the light reflecting member can be easily obtained.

[0036]

A first optical component according to this invention is an optical module in which a light active element such as a light emitter
20 or a photo detector is mounted on an element mounting position, which includes a resin boundary surface for almost totally reflecting the light deviated from a predetermined area in front of the element mounting

the resin boundary surface and the light reflecting member are positioned so that a light path from the element mounting position to the external may pass a path which at least reflects back more than once with each of the resin boundary surface and the light reflecting member. The light active element is represented by a solid light emission chip such as an LED (light emitting diode) chip, a light emitter packaging an LED chip, a photo diode, a photo-transistor, or a photoelectric transducer (solar battery cell). The light path from the element mounting position to the external includes a light path from the light active element mounted on the element mounting position to an external of the light active element and the optical module or a light path entering from the external of the light active element and the optical module into the light active element mounted on the element mounting position.

15 [0037]

In this optical component, light emitted from the light active element such as a light emitter in a direction deviating from a predetermined area is totally reflected by a resin boundary surface, and further reflected by the light reflecting member to be externally emitted, whereby a desired directive pattern can be obtained by designing configurations of the resin boundary surface and the light reflecting member. As the light entering from the external is reflected

deviating from the predetermined area is totally reflected by the resin boundary surface to enter into the light active element such as a photo detector, whereby desired light receive characteristics can be obtained by designing configurations of the resin boundary surface and the light reflecting member. Moreover, the optical component can be

5 miniaturized and thinned by reflecting back the light with the resin boundary surface and the light reflecting member.

[0038]

A second optical component according to this invention to be

10 positioned on a front of a light source includes a resin boundary surface for almost totally reflecting the light emitted from the light source and a light reflecting member for reflecting the light almost totally reflected by the resin boundary surface to be emitted forward.

According to the second optical component, functions and effects same

15 as the above-mentioned first light emission source can be performed by combining with the light emitter. This optical component is a separate component from the light emitter, whereby its handling is easy because it may be later mounted on the light emitter. This optical component may provide same functions and effects when it is applied

20 to a light source such as an electric lamp or a fluorescent lamp in addition to the light emitter.

[0039]

is positioned on a front of a photo detector, includes a light reflecting member for reflecting the light entering from an external and a resin boundary surface for totally reflecting the light reflected by the light reflecting member to strike against the photo detector.

- 5 According to the third optical component, functions and effects same as the above-mentioned light receiver can be performed by combining with the photo detector. This optical component is separate from the photo detector, whereby its handling is easy because it may be later mounted on the photo detector.

10 [0040]

- According to a first aspect of each of the first, second and third optical components, the optical component includes a recess on an opposite face of each component against the resin boundary surface in order to at least dispose either the light emitter or the photo detector. According to the optical component of the first aspect,
- 15 the light emitter or the photo detector is disposed within the recess, whereby the light emitter, the photo detector or the optical component can be easily positioned.

[0041]

- 20 According to a second aspect of each of the first, second and third optical components, the optical component includes an engagement portion in order to establish a positional relationship with the

engagement means a complete contact without any spacing. According to this second aspect, since the optical component includes the engagement portion, the optically active element can be mounted without any chattering, and the optical component can be easily positioned
5 with the optically active element.

[0042]

According to a third aspect of each of the first, second and third optical components, a recess or an open hole is disposed in the position of the element mounting position to enclose or be inserted
10 by the optically active element, whereby the optical component can be three-dimensionally combined with the optically active element to provide a miniaturized construction.

[0043]

According to a fourth aspect of each of the first, second and
15 third optical components, there is disposed a positioning portion to fix a positional relationship with the optically active element. Accordingly, when the optical component is combined with an optically active element, both members can be positioned by the positioning portion and combined without any chattering, and mutual optical-axis
20 alignment of the members can be easily performed.

[0044]

According to a fifth aspect of each of the first, second and

viewed from its front includes a major axial direction and a minor axial direction. According to this optical component, for instance, when light emitted from a light emitter is reflected by the optical component to be emitted forward, the light includes a major axial
5 direction and a minor axial direction, in other words, light having an oval light flux section is emitted.

[0045]

An optical component array in accordance with this invention includes a plurality of the optical components arranged in a desired
10 fashion so as to provide a flat light source. Each optical component can be miniaturized, whereby each light emission point can be minutely made and the optical component array can be thinned.

[0046]

A second optical device according to this invention includes
15 an arrangement such that the above-mentioned optical component and the above-mentioned optically active element are arranged by a predetermined spacing which is filled with optically transparent materials so as to engage the optical component with the optically active element, whereby the optical component and the optically active
20 element are not necessary to have any high dimensional accuracies and the optical component can be easily manufactured.

[0047]

third optical components, at least a part of the above-mentioned light reflecting member comes into contact with an outer circumferential part of the resin layer providing the resin boundary surface. According to the above-mentioned second aspect of each of the optical components, 5 when the optical component is manufactured by a resin mold, the light reflecting member is put on an internal circumference part of a cavity of a metal mold for fixing the position, thereby easily obtaining a positional accuracy of the light reflecting member.

[0048]

10 A manufacturing process of the first optical component including a resin layer having a resin boundary surface for almost totally reflecting the light deviating from a predetermined region in front of a light emitter and a light reflecting member for forwardly emitting the light almost totally reflected by the resin boundary surface 15 according to this invention is provided with a process for resin-injecting at least a part of an outer circumferential part of the light reflecting member striking against an internal surface of a cavity of a metal mold.

[0049]

20 According to the manufacturing process of the first optical component of this invention, the first optical component can be produced, and the light reflecting member strikes against an internal

position, thereby easily obtaining a positional accuracy of the light reflecting member.

[0050]

A manufacturing process of the second optical component
5 including a light reflecting member for reflecting the light entering into a region deviating from a predetermined region in front of a photo detector and a resin layer having a resin boundary surface for almost totally reflecting the light reflected by the light reflecting member according to this invention is provided with a process for
10 resin-injecting at least a part of an outer circumferential part of the light reflecting member striking against an internal surface of a cavity of a metal mold.

[0051]

According to the manufacturing process of the second optical
15 component of this invention, the second optical component can be produced, and the light reflecting member strikes against an internal circumferential part of the cavity of the metal mold for fixing the position, thereby easily obtaining a positional accuracy of the light reflecting member.

20 [0052]

In a light emission method according to this invention, the light deviated from a predetermined front area among the light emitted

surface, and the light totally reflected by the resin boundary surface is emitted forward by the light reflecting member disposed behind the resin boundary surface. According to this light emission method, the light deviated from the predetermined area is reflected by the resin boundary surface and the light reflecting member in a light path emitted from the light source, thereby realizing a desired directional pattern by the configurations of the resin boundary surface and the light reflecting member.

[0053]

10 In a light incidence method according to this invention, the light deviated from a predetermined area in front of a photo detector among the light entered from an external is almost totally reflected by a light reflecting member, and the light reflected by the light reflecting member is totally reflected by a resin boundary surface to strike against the photo detector. According to this light incidence method, the light deviated from the predetermined area is reflected by the resin boundary surface and the light reflecting member in a light path entering into the photo detector, thereby realizing a desired directional pattern by the configurations of the resin boundary surface and the light reflecting member.

[0054]

The light emission source and the light receiver according to

example, the photoelectric sensor according to this invention includes the light receiver employing a photoelectric transducer as a photo detector according to this invention and a light projecting element, in which the light emitted by the light projecting element or the light
5 emitted by the light projecting element and reflected by an object is detected by the light receiver. A self light generating apparatus according to this invention includes the light receiver employing a photoelectric transducer as the photo detector according to this invention, a battery charger for charging electric energies generated
10 by the light receiver, and a light receiver. A display apparatus according to this invention is arranged by a plurality of light emission sources according to this invention or a plurality of optical components according to this invention. A light source for an automobile lamp according to this invention is arranged by a plurality of light emission
15 sources according to this invention or a plurality of optical components according to this invention. An outdoor display apparatus according to this invention is arranged by a plurality of light emission sources according to this invention or a plurality of optical components according to this invention.

20 [0055]

The above-mentioned components of construction can be optionally combined as far as possible.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a sectional view of a conventional light emission source;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view of another conventional light emission
5 source;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a first embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 4 shows at (a) the light emission source of Fig. 3 and a light quantity distribution of the same, and at (b) a light quantity
10 distribution of a conventional light emission source;

Fig. 5 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a second embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 6 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a third embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 7 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a fourth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 8 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a fifth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 9 is a perspective view of a mold resin employed in the
20 light emission source of Fig. 8;

Fig. 10 is a sectional view of the light emission source of Fig. 8;

Fig. 12 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a sixth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 13 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a seventh embodiment of this invention;

5 Fig. 14 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to an eighth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 15 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a ninth embodiment of this invention;

10 Fig. 16 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a tenth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 17 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to an eleventh embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 18 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a twelfth embodiment of this invention;

15 Fig. 19 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a thirteenth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 20 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a fourteenth embodiment of this invention;

20 Fig. 21 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a fifteenth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 22 shows color splitting in a conventional light emission source in a two chip-shape

to a sixteenth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 24 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a seventeenth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 25 shows at (a) a front enlarged view of a lead frame employed
5 in the light emission source of Fig. 24, and at (b) a partially broken side view of the same;

Fig. 26 is an enlarged sectional side view of a portion of Fig. 24 to express light movement;

Fig. 27 is a sectional view showing an embodiment to be compared
10 with the embodiment of Fig. 24;

Fig. 28 is a view showing light movement in the embodiment of Fig. 27;

Fig. 29 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to an eighteenth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 30 is a perspective view of a light receiver according to a nineteenth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 31 is a sectional view of the light receiver of Fig. 30;

Fig. 32 is a sectional view of a light receiver according to a twentieth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 33 is a perspective view of a light receiver according to a twenty-first embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 34 is a perspective view of a light receiver according

Fig. 35 shows at (a) a front view of the light emission source of Fig. 34, at (b) a sectional view taken along line X1-X1 of Fig. 35 at (a), and at (c) a sectional view taken along line Y1-Y1 of Fig. 35 at (a);

5 Fig. 36 shows a profile of light beams emitted by the light emission source of Fig. 34;

Fig. 37 shows an intensity distribution of light emitted by the light emission source of Fig. 34;

Fig. 38 shows at (a) a perspective view of a light reflection
10 portion having a biconical surface, and at (b) a relationship between the biconical surface and the coordinate;

Fig. 39 shows at (a) a front view of a light emission source according to a twenty-third embodiment of this invention, at (b) a sectional view taken along line X2-X2 of Fig. 39 at (a), and at (c)
15 a sectional view taken along line Y2-Y2 of Fig. 39 at (a);

Fig. 40 shows a profile of light beams emitted by the light emission source of Fig. 39;

Fig. 41 shows at (a) a front view of a light emission source according to a twenty-fourth embodiment of this invention, at (b) a
20 sectional view taken along line X3-X3 of Fig. 41 at (a), and at (c) a sectional view taken along line Y3-Y3 of Fig. 41 at (a);

Fig. 42 shows a profile of light beams emitted by the light

Fig. 43 shows at (a) a front view of a light emission source according to a twenty-fifth embodiment of this invention, at (b) a sectional view taken along line X4-X4 of Fig. 43 at (a), and at (c) a sectional view taken along line Y4-Y4 of Fig. 43 at (a);

5 Fig. 44 shows at (a) a front view of a light emission source as a modification of the twenty-fifth embodiment, at (b) a sectional view taken along line X5-X5 of Fig. 44 at (a), and at (c) a sectional view taken along line Y5-Y5 of Fig. 44 at (a);

10 Fig. 45 shows at (a) movements of light emitted at an edge of a resin boundary surface in a light emission source having no slant wall, and at (b) movements of light emitted at an edge of a resin boundary surface in a light emission source having a slant wall;

15 Fig. 46 shows at (a) a front view and at (b) a sectional view of a light emission source according to a twenty-sixth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 47 is a front view of a light emission source according to a twenty-seventh embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 48 is a front view of a light receiver according to a twenty-eighth embodiment of this invention;

20 Fig. 49 is a sectional view of the light receiver of Fig. 48;

Fig. 50 shows at (a) a front view and at (b) a perspective view of photo detectors which can be employed in the light receiver of Fig.

Fig. 51 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a twenty-ninth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 52 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a thirtieth embodiment of this invention;

5 Fig. 53 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a thirty-first embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 54 shows an enlarged view of a portion of Fig. 53;

Fig. 55 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a thirty-second embodiment of this invention;

10 Fig. 56 shows an enlarged view of a portion of Fig. 55;

Fig. 57 shows at (a) a sectional view of a light emission source according to a thirty-third embodiment of this invention, and at (b) a front view of an optical module;

15 Fig. 58 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a thirty-fourth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 59 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a thirty-fifth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 60 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a thirty-sixth embodiment of this invention;

20 Fig. 61 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a thirty-seventh embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 62 is a sectional view of a light emission source according

Fig. 63 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a thirty-ninth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 64 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a fortieth embodiment of this invention;

5 Fig. 65 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a forty-first embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 66 at (a) to (c) shows a manufacturing process for the above-mentioned light emission source;

10 Fig. 67 shows a sectional view of a modification of the forty-first embodiment;

Fig. 68 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a forty-second embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 69 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a forty-third embodiment of this invention;

15 Fig. 70 shows a sectional view of a modification of the forty-third embodiment;

Fig. 71 shows a sectional view of a modification of the forty-third embodiment;

20 Fig. 72 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a forty-fourth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 73 is a sectional view of a light receiver according to a forty-fifth embodiment of this invention;

a forty-sixth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 75 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a forty-seventh embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 76 shows a sectional view of a modification of the
5 forty-seventh embodiment;

Fig. 77 shows a sectional view of another modification of the forty-seventh embodiment;

Fig. 78 shows a sectional view of another modification of the forty-seventh embodiment;

10 Fig. 79 shows a sectional view of another modification of the forty-seventh embodiment;

Fig. 80 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a forty-eighth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 81 shows a manufacturing process for a light emission source
15 according to a forty-ninth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 82 is a perspective view of a light emission source array according to a fiftieth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 83 is a sectional view of the above-mentioned light emission source array;

20 Fig. 84 shows a sectional view of a modification of the fiftieth embodiment;

Fig. 85 shows an arrangement of light emission sources in a

Fig. 86 shows an arrangement of light emission sources in a light emission source array;

Fig. 87 shows an arrangement of light emission sources in a light emission source array;

5 Fig. 88 shows an arrangement of light emission sources in a light emission source array;

Fig. 89 at (a) and (b) shows sectional and front views of a construction of a light emission source according to a fifty-first embodiment of this invention;

10 Fig. 90 at (a) and (b) shows sectional and front views of a construction of the light reflection member employed in the light emission source of Fig. 57;

Fig. 91 is an operation explanatory view of the light emission source of Fig. 57;

15 Fig. 92 shows light distribution characteristics of the light emission source of Fig. 57;

Fig. 93 is a front view of a signal according to a fifty-second embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 94 is a side view of the signal of Fig. 61;

20 Fig. 95 is a sectional view of a signal lamp providing the signal of Fig. 61;

Fig. 96 shows a direction of light emitted from the signal of

Fig. 97 is a sectional view of a comparative example of a signal lamp;

Fig. 98 is a front view of a light emission display apparatus according to a fifty-third embodiment of this invention;

5 Fig. 99 is a front view of a light emission display unit providing the display apparatus of Fig. 66;

Fig. 100 is a side view of the light emission display unit of Fig. 67;

10 Fig. 101 is a side view a comparative example of a light emission display unit;

Fig. 102 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a fifty-fourth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 103 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a modification of the fifty-fourth embodiment of this invention;

15 Fig. 104 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a fifty-fifth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 105 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a modification of the fifty-fifth embodiment of this invention;

20 Fig. 106 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a fifty-sixth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 107 shows a different shape front of the light emission source;

emission source;

Fig. 109 shows a still further different shape front of the light emission source;

Fig. 110 shows a still further different shape front of the
5 light emission source;

Fig. 111 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a fifty-seventh embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 112 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a modification of the fifty-seventh embodiment of this invention;

10 Fig. 113 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a fifty-eighth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 114 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a fifty-ninth embodiment of this invention;

15 Fig. 115 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a modification of the fifty-ninth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 116 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a sixtieth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 117 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a modification of the sixtieth embodiment of this invention;

20 Fig. 118 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a modification of the fifty-fourth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 119 is a sectional view of a light emission source according

invention;

Fig. 120 is a sectional view of a light emission source according to a sixty-first embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 121 shows front and side views of an outdoor display apparatus according to a sixty-second embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 122 is a side view of the outdoor display apparatus of Fig. 89(121) on use;

Fig. 123 shows a manufacturing process for a light emission source according to a sixty-third embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 124 is a perspective view of a light emission display according to sixty-fourth of this invention;

Fig. 125 shows at (a) a perspective view of a conventional light emission source employed in a light emission display, and at (b) an arrangement of the light emission source;

Fig. 126 is a perspective view of an external configuration of a light emission source employed in the light emission display of Fig. 92(124);

Fig. 127 shows one picture element of a full color light emission display in which a red light emission source, a green light emission source, a blue light emission source are arranged in a delta fashion;

Fig. 128 is a schematic diagram showing an optical fiber coupler according to a sixty-fifth embodiment of this invention;

to a sixty-sixth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 130 is a schematic diagram showing an advertisement signboard according to a sixty-seventh embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 131 is a schematic diagram showing an advertisement
5 signboard according to a modification of the sixty-seventh;

Fig. 132 is a perspective view of a high mount strap lamp according to a sixty-eighth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 133 is a perspective view of a single light emission source employed in the high mount strap lamp of Fig. 100 (132);

10 Fig. 134 is a perspective view of a high mount strap according to a sixty-ninth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 135 is a perspective view of the high mount strap of Fig. 102 (134) installed into a car;

Fig. 136 shows at (a) an enlarged sectional view of a portion
15 of the high mount strap of Fig. 102 (134), and at (b) a front view of the same;

Fig. 137 shows at (a) an enlarged sectional view of a portion of a conventional high mount strap, and at (b) a front view thereof;

Fig. 138 is a perspective view of a display apparatus according
20 to a seventieth embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 139 is a perspective view showing a beam configuration of light emitted from a light emission source employed in the display

Fig. 140 is a perspective view showing an area where display by the display apparatus of Fig. 106(138) can be recognized;

Fig. 141 is a sectional view of a photoelectric sensor according to a seventy-first embodiment of this invention;

5 Fig. 142 is a sectional view of a road tack according to a seventy-second embodiment of this invention;

Fig. 143 is a perspective view of an illumination-type switch according to a seventy-third embodiment of this invention;

10 Fig. 144 is a disassembled perspective view of the illumination-type switch according of Fig. 111(143);

Fig. 145 is a schematic sectional view of the illumination-type switch according of Fig. 111(143); and

Fig. 146 is a schematic sectional view of a conventional illumination-type switch.

15 DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0056]

Embodiments of this invention will be described in detail hereinafter referring to drawings.

[0057]

20 (First Embodiment)

As a first embodiment, a section of a light emission source 11 is shown in Fig. 3. According to this embodiment, a light emitter

made of optically transparent resin materials. The light emitter 12 sealed in the mold resin 13 is mounted on a stem 15 disposed on a leading edge of a lead frame 17, and connected with another lead frame 14 by a bonding wire 16 so that a light emission side is disposed toward a front of the light emission source 11.

[0058]

In a front central part of the mold resin 13, there is disposed a direct emission region 18 having a convex lens configuration such as a spherical lens shape, an aspherical lens shape, or a paraboloid shape. A total reflection region 19 in a flat shape is formed to surround the direct emission region 18. The direct emission region 18 is formed so that its medial axis can accord with medial axis of the light emitter 12, and the total reflection region 19 is formed to be a flat plane perpendicular to an optical axis of the light emitter 12. The light emitter 12 is located in focal point of the direct emission region 18 or the neighborhood. The angle α of a direction, viewed from the light emitter 12 to the boundary between the direct emission region 18 and the total reflection region 19, from the optical axis of the light emitter 12 is equal to a critical angle θ_c of total reflection between the mold resin 13 and air or larger.

[0059]

Therefore, light emitted to the direct emission region 18 in

in parallel directly from a front of the mold resin 13 to front. Light emitted to the total reflection region 19 in the light emitted from the light emitter 12 is totally reflected by its resin boundary surface to be directed to a rear face of the mold resin 13.

5 [0060]

The rear face of the mold resin 13 is coated with a metal film having a high reflectivity such as aluminum or silver by vacuum deposition or a multilayer reflection film to provide a light reflection portion 20. At least a region of the light reflection portion 20 hit
10 by the light reflected by the total reflection region 19 provides a concave mirror, such as a spherical mirror or revolution-parabolic mirror, having a focal point around a mirror position of the light emitter 12 with respect to the total reflection region 19.

[0061]

15 Accordingly, light emitted from the light emitter 12 and totally reflected by the total reflection area 19 strikes against the light reflection portion 20 to be reflected thereby and emitted forward from the total reflection region 19 in approximately parallel.

[0062]

20 Therefore, according to the light emission source 11 of this embodiment, approximately all light forwardly emitted from the light emitter 12 (including the light totally reflected by the total

light emission source 11, resulting into high efficiency of light use. Moreover, the light emitted forward from the light emitter 12 can be emitted from the direct emission region 18 without any obstruction, whereby darkness on the optical axis as found in a conventional light
5 emission source can be avoided and the directional pattern also can be improved.

[0063]

Furthermore, the light emitted from the light emitter 12 in a diagonal direction is totally reflected by the total reflection region
10 19 and further reflected by the light reflection portion 20 for forward emission, whereby the optical path length is elongated, thereby reducing its aberration and providing a high accuracy of the light emission source 11.

[0064]

15 In a conventional light emission source employing a light emitting diode, most of light totally reflected by a mold resin is not emitted forward, thereby providing a narrow distribution about quantity of light as shown in Fig. 4 at (b). As shown in Fig. 4 at (a), according to the light emission source 11 of this embodiment,
20 the light emitted from the light emitter 12 is spread over a whole front face of the mold resin 13 and approximately paralleled, thereby providing a width-wide and uniform distribution of light quantity (beam

[0065]

In this embodiment, the light emission source is designed to emit the paralleled light. If desired, the directional pattern of the light emitted from the light emitter 11 can be changed to a desired pattern by changing the position of the light emitter 12, the focal position and the surface configuration of the direct emission region 18 providing a convex lens, or the focal position and the surface configuration of the light reflection portion 20 providing a concave mirror.

10 [0066]

(Second Embodiment)

Fig. 5 shows a sectional view of a light emission source 21 according to a second embodiment. Fig. 5 omits the components of a stem, a lead frame, and a bonding wire (delineation of lead frame and others might be omitted in a light emission source shown in Fig. 6 and its subsequent figures). In this embodiment, a direct emission region 18 in a boundary surface of a mold resin 13 is formed to be flat. Accordingly, direct emission region 18 and total reflection region 19 cannot be distinguished from their appearance, but can be distinguished by the movement of light beams emitted from a light emitter 12. The position of the light striking against a boundary surface 13 is determined by the light emitter 12 at a critical angle

region 18 and the total reflection boundary 19. Therefore, the incident light striking against the direct emission region 18 inside of the boundary is directly emitted from the direct emission region 18, and the light striking against the total reflection region 19 outside of the boundary is totally reflected by the total reflection region 19 to be reflected by a light reflection portion 20 for forward emission.

[0067]

In this embodiment, total reflection is made by the boundary surface of the mold resin 13, and the efficiency of light use is improved also. The direct emission region 18 is formed to be plane, whereby the light emitted from the direct emission region 18 is spread and the angle of beam spread of light emitted from the region can be broadly widened. When the angle of beam spread is desired to be widened or the limitation to the angle is minor, the direct emission region 18 can be formed to be flat so as to simplify the front configuration of the mold resin 13 like this embodiment.

[0068]

(Third Embodiment)

Fig. 6 is a sectional view of a light emission source 22 according to a third embodiment, in which a front portion 18a of a direct emission region 18 is formed to be larger than a base portion 18b and to provide a lens configuration. When the light totally reflected by a resin

20 is approximately paralleled, a region where any light is not emitted appears in an internal circumference portion of a total reflection region 19, so that the lens configuration of the direct emission region 18 can have a large diameter without narrowing the total reflection region 19 by enlarging the front portion 18a of the direct emission region 18 as far as light emitted from the total reflection region 19 is not obstructed. According to this configuration, the ratio of the light emitted from the direct emission region 18 of a lens configuration and the light emitted from the total reflection region 19 can be efficiently designed, thereby providing a high performance of the light emission source 22.

[0069]

(Fourth Embodiment)

In the light emission source 11 shown in Fig. 3, the light striking against an edge (outer circumferential portion) of the direct emission region 18 is blocked so that it cannot be emitted forward, whereby the blocked light emitted from the light emitter 12 becomes loss. When the distance between the light emitter 12 and the direct emission region 18 is short, the curvature of the direct emission region 18 becomes large, whereby the light emitted to the edge of the direct emission region 18 can be emitted in a traverse direction or totally reflected.

When the light emitter 12 is positioned close to the direct emission region 18, the direct emission region 18 has to be positioned

emitter 12 which is equal to the critical angle of total reflection, so that because of a lower limit in the dimension (diameter viewed from the front) of the direct emission region, area of the circumference part of the direct emission region 18 becomes large and loss of light emitted from the light emitter 12 becomes large. Moreover, because of a lower limit in the dimension of the direct emission region 18, the curvature of a surface of the direct emission region 18 also has an upper limit and the design flexibility of the direct emission region 18 is limited.

10 [0070]

In view of the above, Fig. 7 shows a sectional view of a light emission source 23 according to a fourth embodiment, in which a direct emission region 18 is disposed in the center of a surface of a mold resin 13 and a total reflection region 19 is disposed outside its circumference. The direct emission region 18 has a generally hemispheric shape, and its medial axis accords with an optical axis C of light emitter 12. In the light emission source 23, the light emitted from the light emitter 12 toward the direct emission region 18 is refracted and emitted approximately forward from the direct emission region 18.

20 [0071]

The total reflection region 19 is composed of a taper shaped

and a flat portion 19a, wherein a medial axis of the taper-shaped portion 19b agrees with an optical axis C of the light emitter 12, and the flat portion 19a has a face perpendicular to the optical axis C of the light emitter 12. The section of the taper-shaped portion 19b passing the medial axis is straight but may be curve. For example, the taper-shaped portion 19b may be a surface of revolution of curve with a rotation axis representing the medial axis.

[0072]

The angle θ_b of a direction, which is viewed from the light emitter 12 to a boundary between the flat portion 19a and the taper-shaped portion 19b, from the optical axis C of the light emitter 12 is designed to be larger than the critical angle θ_c of the total reflection in the boundary surface of the mold resin 13 (for example, against air). Therefore, all light emitted from the light emitter 12 and striking against the flat portion 19a is reflected by the flat portion 19a so as to be directed to a light reflecting portion 20.

[0073]

In addition, the angle θ_a of the direction, which is viewed from the light emitter 12 to an edge of the direct emission region 18 (the boundary between the direct emission region 18 and the taper-shaped portion 19b), from the optical axis C of the light emitter 12 is designed to be smaller than the critical angle θ_c of the total

against air). In other words, when viewed from a front, the dimension of the direct emission region 18 is smaller, and the sharing ratio of the outré circumferential part of the direct emission region 18 against the all is smaller, in comparison with the light emission source 11 shown in Fig. 3. Accordingly, the light lost by the sideways emission at an edge of the direct emission region 18 or total reflection in the light emission source shown in Fig. 3 is totally reflected by the taper-shaped portion 19b and reflected by the light reflecting portion 20 to be emitted forward, thereby decreasing the loss of light. Since the direct emission region 18 is small, the curvature in the surface of the direct emission region 18 can be large, thereby decreasing the constraint of design.

[0074]

All light striking against the taper-shaped portion 19b is totally reflected by the taper-shaped portion 19b. For example, when the section of the taper-shaped portion 19b is designed to be straight as shown in Fig. 7 and θ_c is assumed to be a critical angle of the total reflection, the and gradient β of the taper-shaped portion 19b is designed by the equation below;

$$\beta = \theta_c - \theta_a$$

Therefore, all light emitted from the light emitter 12 to strike against the taper-shaped portion 19b is totally reflected by the taper-shaped

[0075]

The configuration of the light reflecting portion 20 is designed so that the light totally reflected by the flat portion 19a and the taper-shaped portion 19b is reflected by the light reflecting portion 20 to be emitted forward from the total reflection region 19.

[0076]

Therefore, according to this embodiment, the loss of light is reduced, and the design flexibility of the direct emission region 18 is improved.

10 [0077]

(Fifth Embodiment)

Figs. 8 and 10 show perspective and sectional views of a light emission source 24 according to a fifth embodiment of this invention. Fig. 9 shows a perspective view showing an inner component of the light emission source 24 viewed through a mold resin 13. Fig. 11 is an enlarged view of a portion A of Fig. 10. The light emission source 24 employs a light reflecting portion 20 which has a parabola-shaped metal member formed by press working and is plated with aluminum or silver on a surface of the portion for a specular working. If desired, the light reflecting portion 20 may employ a pressing part with aluminum or silver which is chemically processed to bring glossiness on a surface thereof.

[0078]

aperture 20a for accommodating a stem 15. The stem 15 mounted by a light emitter 12 is put without any contact with the aperture 20a, and the light reflecting portion 20 is sealed within a mold resin 13 together with lead frames 14 and 17.

5 [0079]

On a front wall of the mold resin 13, there are formed a direct emission region 18 in the center of the resin, a taper-shaped portion 19b around the region, and a flat portion 19a around the portion 19b, in the same manner as the configuration of the embodiment shown in

10 Fig. 7.

[0080]

According to this light emission source 24 having such above-mentioned construction, any evaporation film (light reflecting portion 20) is not necessary to be disposed on a rear wall of the mold resin 13 as shown in the embodiment of Fig. 3, and the light reflecting portion 20 formed together with the light emitter 12 and the lead frames 14 and 17 as a single isolated unit has only to be set within a molding metal mold, thereby simplifying the manufacturing process.

15

[0081]

20 As shown in Fig. 11, an outer circumference portion of a front of the mold resin 13 is provided with a taper-shaped beveling portion 25, and an angle of outer circumferential face of the light reflecting

25. Accordingly, when the mold resin 13 is molded, setting can be done while angle of the outer circumference at a reflection side of the light reflecting portion 20 strikes against an inner wall of a cavity of the molding metal mold, the light reflecting portion 20 can be fixed its position to be precisely inserted within the mold resin 13, thereby improving the mounting accuracy of the light reflecting portion 20.

[0082]

(Sixth Embodiment)

10 Fig. 12 is a sectional view of a light emission source 26 according to a sixth embodiment of this invention. This light emission source 26 has a similar construction to that of the fifth embodiment, but a total reflection region 19 is composed of only a flat portion perpendicular to an optical axis of a light emitter 12.

15 [0083]

 In addition, at least a region of the light reflecting portion 20 stricken by the light reflected by the total reflection region 19 serves as a concave mirror, such as a spherical mirror or a parabolic mirror of revolution, having a focal point at a position of a mirror image 12a of the light emitter 12 with respect to the total reflection region 19, as similarly described in the first embodiment. Accordingly, the light emitted from the light emitter 12 is totally reflected by the

portion 20 passes through the total reflection region 19 to be emitted forward as paralleled light.

[0084]

(Seventh Embodiment)

5 Fig. 13 is a sectional view of a light emission source 27 according to a seventh embodiment of this invention, in which a total reflection region 19 has a reverse circular cone-shaped configuration. Since the total reflection region 19 is formed to have the reverse circular cone-shaped configuration so that its outer circumferential portion
10 appears forward, an incident angle of light emitted from the light emitter 12 and striking against the total reflection region 19 can be designed to be large, whereby an aperture of an inner circumference portion of the total reflection region 19 can be made small. Accordingly, the ratio of light totally reflected by the total
15 reflection region 19 and reflected by the light reflection portion 20 to be emitted from the total reflection region 19 can be large, whereby a light emission source having an optional directivity can be easily realized by optimally designing the configuration of the light reflecting portion 20.

20 [0085]

 Though not shown, the total reflection region 19 may be modified to have a circular cone shaped configuration so that its outer

19 has the circular cone-shaped configuration, the light emitted from the total reflection region 19 can be gathered inner side, whereby a dark area near the direct emission region 18 can be minimized.

[0086]

5 (Eighth Embodiment)

Fig. 14 is a sectional view of a light emission source 28 according to an eighth embodiment. In this light emission source 28, a front wall of a mold resin 13 is formed to have a curved surface on which a direct emission region 18 and a total reflection region 19 are smoothly
10 formed, whereby most of light emitted forward from a light emitter 12 is totally reflected by the front wall of the mold resin 13 (the total reflection region 19) and reflected by a light reflecting portion 20 to be emitted forward. According to the light emission source 28 of such a configuration, the design flexibility of the light emission
15 source 28 is improved.

[0087]

(Ninth Embodiment)

Fig. 15 is a sectional view of a light emission source 29 according to a ninth embodiment. In this embodiment, a total reflection region
20 19 has a continuously varying curved face such as lens-curved face, and the degree of freedom of design is further improved.

[0088]

Fig. 16 is a sectional view of a light emission source 30 according to a tenth embodiment. In the light emission source 30 of this embodiment, a lens configuration of a lens-shaped direct emission region 18 is formed to be a Fresnel lens to decrease the thickness of the direct emission region 18 or the light emission source 30.

[0089]

(Eleventh Embodiment)

Fig. 17 is a sectional view of a light emission source 31 according to an eleventh embodiment. In the light emission source 31 of this embodiment, a rear face of a mold resin 13 is formed to include a Fresnel lens on a surface of which a light reflecting portion 20 is formed. In this embodiment, the thickness of the light emission source 31 can be reduced.

[0090]

(Twelfth Embodiment)

Fig. 18 is a sectional view of a light emission source 32 according to a twelfth embodiment. In this embodiment, a mirror 33 is disposed near a light emitter 12 within a mold resin 13 so as to reflect the light emitted sideways from the light emitter 12 toward a total reflection region 19. The light reflected by the mirror is totally reflected by the total reflection region 19, and further reflected by a light reflecting member 20 to be emitted forward from the total reflection

of a stem 15 (see Fig. 24).

[0091]

According to this embodiment, the light emitted sideways in the light emitted from the light emitter 12 is directly reflected by the light reflecting portion 20 to be avoided from becoming lost light, whereby the light emitted in a side direction is effectively used and the use efficiency of light emitted from the light emitter 12 is further improved.

[0092]

10 (Thirteenth Embodiment)

Fig. 19 is a sectional view of a light emission source 34 according to a thirteenth embodiment. In this embodiment, a light emitter 12 is disposed in the location deviated from an optical axis D of a mold resin. Since the light emitter 12 is located apart from a direct emission region 18 and a total reflection region 19, so that biased light is emitted from the light emission source 34 in an inclined direction. In other words, the directional pattern can be asymmetry within a face which light emitter 12 is inclined.

[0093]

20 (Fourteenth Embodiment)

Fig. 20 is a sectional view of a light emission source 35 according to a fourteenth embodiment of this invention. The light emission source

emission source 26 as shown in Fig. 12, but the position of light emitter 12 is shifted from the center of light reflecting portion 20 and an optical axis D of direct emission region 18.

[0094]

5 In other words, the light emitter 12 is disposed at a little displaced location to a direction perpendicular to the optical axis of the direct emission region 18. At least a region of the light reflecting portion 20 stricken by the light reflected by total reflection region 19 serves as a concave mirror, such as a spherical
10 mirror or a parabolic mirror of revolution, and a center of the light reflecting portion 20 is disposed so as to accord with the optical axis D of the direct emission region 18. The concave mirror and the light emitter 12 have a positional relationship such that a mirror image 12a of the light emitter 12 with respect to the total reflection
15 region 19 is located at a position apart from a focal point of the concave mirror in a wall which passes the focal point of the concave mirror and is perpendicular to the optical axis of the concave mirror. In other words, the light emitter 12 is disposed at the location displaced from a mirror image position of the focal point of the concave mirror
20 with respect to the total reflection region 19.

[0095]

Therefore, in this light emitting device 25, the light emitter 12

emitted in a diagonal direction as approximately paralleled light.
The light emitted from the light emitter 12, totally reflected by total
reflection region 19 and further reflected by the light reflecting
portion 20 is emitted in a diagonal direction as approximately
5 paralleled light.

[0096]

(Fifteenth Embodiment)

Fig. 21 is a sectional view of a light emission source 36 according
to a fifteenth embodiment. In this embodiment, a plurality of light
10 emitters 12R and 12G having different light emission colors
respectively (for example, a red light emitting diode, a green light
emitting diode) are sealed within the mold resin 13.

[0097]

When a plurality of light emitters each in a chip shape are
15 enclosed within the mold resin in a cannonball-shaped light emission
source 37 (a comparative example) as shown in Fig. 22, the color isolation
is large and varies depending on a viewing direction, and visual
performance depends on the viewing direction. In the light emission
source 36 of this invention, the difference of degrees of color isolation
20 by its viewing direction can be small, and its visual performance can
be uniformed.

[0098]

Fig. 23 is a sectional view of a light emission source 38 according to a sixteenth embodiment. In this embodiment, an optical multilayer film 39 is formed over a whole front wall of a mold resin 13. By forming the optical multilayer film 39 on the front wall of the mold resin 13, the light having an incident angle larger than a particular angle is reflected by a boundary surface and the light having an incident angle smaller than the particular angle is driven to pass through. Moreover, the particular angle can be optionally chosen by design of the optical multilayer film 39, thereby increasing the degree of freedom of the design. The light emission source including the optical multilayer film 39 may be any of light emission sources shown in Figs. 3 to 20 or other light emission source, if desired.

[0099]

(Seventeenth Embodiment)

Fig. 24 is a sectional view of a light emission source 41 according to a seventeenth embodiment. Before describing the light emission source 41 of this embodiment, embodiments for comparison will be described hereinafter to ease understanding this embodiment.

[0100]

For instance, in the light emission source as shown in Fig. 10 or 12, the cup in a parabola shape (light reflecting member) is

light emission source 41 according to the present invention. FIG. 24 is a sectional view of a light emission source 41 according to the present invention.

This is because the light emitted from a side wall of the light emitter 12 (LED bare chip) is reflected by an inner surface of the cup to be emitted forward. Thus cup within the stem is conventionally employed, but the conventional cup is slanted toward roughly 45 degrees against the optical axis of the light emitter.

[0101]

Fig. 27 shows an embodiment in which a conventional cup 40 is employed in the light emission source shown in Fig. 12 as it is. The optical axis of light emitted from direct emission region 18 is fixed by an angle connecting a light emission point with a principal point of the direct emission region 18. The light emitted by the cup 40 can be regarded as the light where the cup 40 is a virtual light source. Namely, a mirror image of the light emitter 12 with respect to the cup 40 appears in a ring shape near an outer circumference of an inner wall of the cup 40. The distance between the light emitter 12 and the cup 40, however, is very short, so that the mirror image of the light emitter 12 appears very near the cup 40, or almost accords with the cup 40. As shown in Fig. 27, the light emitted after reflection by the cup 40 can be regarded as the light emitted from respective points on a surface of the cup 40 (virtual light source), so that an optical axis of the light which is emitted from the light emitter 12,

[0102]

In a conventional light emission source with the use of this cup 40 (for example, a cannonball shape as shown in Fig. 22), the distance between the light emitter and the lens is long, so that the gradient of the optical axis of such emitted light is small, so that any substantial problem has not happened. In the light emission source of this invention, the distance between the light emitter 12 and the direct emission region 18 is short, so that the gradient of the optical axis of the emitted light reflected by the cup 40 becomes large, whereby the light which is emitted forward from the light emitter and the light which is emitted from a side of the light emitter 12 and reflected by the cup 40 cannot be emitted in approximately same direction.

[0103]

As a result, when the light emission source of this invention employs a conventional cup having a gradient roughly 45° , the light emitted from the light emitter 12 is mixed with the light L1 emitted in approximately in the optical axis and the light L2 emitted in a direction greatly deviated from the optical axis. In particular, as it becomes far from the light emission source, the light emitted in different directions is split so that the light L2 appears in a ring shape around the light L1. Moreover, the direct emission region 18

the front light, and the optical axis of the slant light L2 cannot be controlled by the design of a lens shape of the direct emission region 18.

[0104]

5 The above-mentioned embodiments are improved by stem 15 in this seventeenth embodiment. The light emission source 41 of Fig. 24 employs a similar construction to the embodiment shown in Fig. 12, and provides an improvement. Fig. 25 at (a) and (b) shows a front view of a lead frame and a partially sectional side view of the same. In this
10 embodiment, stem 15 also is disposed for mounting light emitter 12, and a cup 42 for light reflection is disposed around a mounting position for the light emitter on the stem 1. The light emitter 12 is mounted on an inside face of the cup 42 on a front wall of the stem 15. As shown in Fig. 26 which is a partially magnified view of Fig. 24, the
15 configuration of the cup 42 is designed so that the light emitted sideways from the light emitter 12 and reflected by the cup 42 can be directed to the total reflection region 19 without going to the direct emission region 18. As concretely shown in Fig. 25, a gradient angle γ of the cup 42 from a bottom inner wall of the stem at an inner side of the
20 cup 42 is designed to be 22 degrees.

[0105]

19 in this light emission source 41, the light emitted from a side wall of the light emitter 12 and reflected by the cup 42 is totally reflected by the total reflection region 19 to be directed to the light reflecting portion 20, and further reflected by the light reflecting portion 20 to pass through the total reflection region 19 for forward emission as shown in Fig. 24. The light striking against the direct emission region 18 among the light emitted from a front of the light emitter 12 becomes subject to a lens function on the direct emission region 18, and is emitted forward.

10 [0106]

Thus, the light reflected by the cup 42 is totally reflected by the total reflection region 19 to be directed to the light reflecting portion 20, whereby the light path can be freely controlled by the light reflecting portion 20. Accordingly, when the light reflected by the cup 42 employing lead frames 14 and 17 is directed to the total reflection region 19, almost all light emitted from the light emitter 12 can be emitted to a desired direction (for example, a direction in parallel with the optical axis of the light emitter 12). In this embodiment, the light emission source 41 is free from becoming large.

20 [0107]

The reason why the light path can be freely controlled by

from a front and a side of the light emitter 12 reaches the light reflecting portion 20, the light path is bent by the reflection at the total reflection region 19, so that the light path length from the light emitter 12 to the light reflecting portion 20 becomes long, 5 whereby the light reflecting portion 20 receives the light emitted from a front of the light emitter 12 and the light emitted from a side of the light emitter 12 and reflected by the cup 42 in approximately same directions respectively. Accordingly, they can be simultaneously controlled. When the curvature of the light reflecting 10 portion 20 is designed, both are possible to be generally designed.

[0108]

(Eighteenth Embodiment)

Fig. 29 is a sectional view of a light emission source 43 according to an eighteenth embodiment. This embodiment is of a can package type, 15 in which a front wall of a light reflecting portion 20 is filled with a transparent mold resin 13, a rear wall of the light reflecting portion 20 is filled with an insulating material 46, a cylindrical housing 44 extending from outer circumferential portion of the light reflecting portion 20 covers an outer peripheral surface of the insulating material 20 46, and a flange 45 is disposed at a periphery of a rear end of the housing 44.

is formed with the stem 15 as a single unit. Further, light reflecting portion 20, stem 15, lead frame 17, cylindrical housing 44 and flange 45 are formed as a single unit by metallic material. A head of the lead frame 14 is inserted within an aperture 20a of the light reflecting portion 20 without contact with the same.

[0110]

Therefore, according to this embodiment, the number of parts is reduced, the assembly is easy, and manufacturing cost is reduced. In particular, it gets possible to produce it by a production process same as general can package products. Furthermore, the housing 44 and the flange 45 united with the stem 15 are exposed to a surface, whereby heat dissipation nature of the heat which is occurred with the light emitter 12 is improved, and the allowance forward current quantity is increased, thereby performing high brightness.

[0111]

Furthermore, in this embodiment, the cup 42 disposed on the stem 15 is designed so that the light emitted from a side of the light emitter 12 and reflected by the cup 42 can be directed toward the total reflection region 19, whereby each emission direction of the light emitted from the light emission source 43 can be aligned in one direction.

[0112]

END OF THE SPECIFICATION

(Nineteenth Embodiment)

Fig. 30 is a perspective view of a light receiver 51 according to a nineteenth embodiment of this invention, and Fig. 31 is a sectional view of the receiver. According to this light receiver 51, a photo
 5 detector 52 in a chip shape, such as a photo diode or photo-transistor or the like, and a light reflecting portion 53 are sealed within a mold resin 54 made of a transparent resin material. The photo detector 52 sealed within the mold resin 54 is mounted on a stem 56 disposed on a head of a lead frame 5, connected with another lead frame 58 by
 10 a bonding wire 57, and disposed so that its light receiving wall faces forward.

[0113]

In a front central part of the mold resin 54, there is provided a direct incidence region 59 having a convex lens configuration such
 15 as a spherical lens shape, an aspherical lens shape, or a paraboloid shape. A flat region 60 (resin boundary surface) having flatness is formed to surround the direct incidence region 59. The direct incidence region 59 is formed so that its medial axis may accord with an optical axis of the photo detector 52. The flat region 60 has a flat face
 20 perpendicular to the optical axis of the photo detector 52. The photo detector 52 is located at a focal point of the direct incidence region

against the photo detector is focused to the photo detector 52 to be received by its light receiving face.

[0114]

An angle α of a direction, viewed from the photo detector 52
5 toward a boundary between the direct incidence region 59 and the flat region 60, from the optical axis is equal to a critical angle θ_c of the total reflection between the mold resin 54 and air or larger.

[0115]

A light reflection portion 53 is a metal plate which is molded
10 to a parabola shape by press working and plated with aluminum or silver on its surface for specular working. If desired, the light reflection portion 53 may employ a pressed part of aluminum or silver which is applied by chemical treatment for providing glossiness on its surface. The light reflecting portion 53 at its center is provided an aperture
15 61 for accommodating a stem 56, and is sealed within a mold resin 54 together with lead frames 55 and 58 wherein the stem 56 mounted by the photo detector 52 is accommodated within the aperture 61. A configuration of a section of the light reflecting portion 53 is designed so that the light perpendicularly striking against the flat region
20 60 of the mold resin 54 and reflected by the light reflecting portion 53 may be totally reflected by the flat region 60 to enter into the

Accordingly, the light striking against the direct incidence region 59 in the light approximately perpendicularly striking against the light receiver 51 is refracted to be focused on the photo detector 52 when it passes the direct incidence region 59. The light striking
5 against the flat region 60 is reflected by the light reflecting portion 53, and totally reflected by the flat region 60 to be focused on the photo detector 52. Thus, most of light approximately perpendicularly striking against the light receiver 51 can be focused on the photo detector 52, whereby the light receiver 51 having a high efficiency
10 of light receipt can be produced. The light requirement can be increased by increasing the light receive area which can be performed by enlarging the light reflecting portion 53 without depending on the area of the photo detector 52, thereby increasing the light requirement and the light receiving efficiency at a reduced cost. Moreover,
15 thinning the light receiver 51 can be performed by increasing the light receiving efficiency without thickening the receiver.

[0117]

According to the light receiver 51 having such a configuration, the light reflecting portion 53 which is a discrete part together with
20 the photo detector 52 and the stem 56 has only to be set within a molding metal mold, thereby simplifying the manufacturing process of the light

The angle of a circumference face of the light reflecting portion 53 is adjusted to the angle portion of the mold resin 54. Accordingly, when the mold resin 54 is molded, an outer circumferential angle on a reflection side of the light reflecting portion 53 coming into contact with an inner wall of a cavity of molding metal mold can be set, whereby the light reflecting portion 53 is fixed about its position to be precisely inserted within the mold resin 54, thereby improving the mounting accuracy of the light reflecting portion 53.

[0119]

10 (Twentieth Embodiment)

Fig. 32 is a sectional view of a light receiver 62 according to a twentieth embodiment. In this embodiment, a direct incidence region 59 is disposed at a center of a surface core of the mold resin 54, a taper-shaped portion 63 in a circular cone (block) or pyramid (block) shape which hollows at its center is disposed around the direct incidence region 59, and a flat region 60 is disposed outside the portion 63. The medial axis of the taper-shaped part 63 agrees with an optical axis of a photo detector 52, and the flat region 60 has a face perpendicular to a photo detector 52.

20 [0120]

According to this light receiver 62, the incident light to the

60 is reflected light reflecting portion 53, and further totally reflected by the flat region 60 to be directed to the photo detector 52. The taper-shaped portion 63 is designed so that the light entering through the flat region 60 to be reflected by an outer circumferential portion of the light reflecting portion 53 can be directed to the photo detector 52 without totally reflected in a direction deviating from the photo detector 52 when it is totally reflected near the direct incidence region 59. According to this embodiment, the light receiving efficiency is improved. The employment of the taper-shaped part 63 allows the projection length of the direct incidence region 59 to be decreased and the light receiver 62 to be thinned.

[0121]

According to thus construction, an angle α of a direction, viewed from the photo detector 52 toward a boundary between the direct incidence region 59 and of the taper-shaped part 63, from the optical axis can be smaller than a critical angle θ_c of the total reflection between the mold resin 54 and air.

[0122]

(Twenty-first Embodiment)

Fig. 33 is a perspective view of a light receiver 64 according to a twenty-first embodiment, which is used as a solar cell. In this

within mold resin 54. In front of the light reflecting portion 53, there is disposed a photo detector 52 (a photoelectric transducer such as a silicon system photoelectric transducer of amorphous, polycrystal or monocrystal). In the center of a front wall of the mold resin 54
5 there is disposed a direct incidence region 59 in a longitudinally cylindrical lens-shape, and a flat region 60 is formed at each side thereof.

[0123]

The light striking against the direct incidence region 59 in
10 the light perpendicularly striking against the light receiver 64 is directly focused on the photo detector 52. The light striking against the flat region 60 is reflected by the light reflecting portion 53, and further totally reflected by the flat region 60 to be received by the photo detector 52. Since the photo detector 52 is long in one
15 direction, the light receiving area can be increased, thereby performing large focused quantity and providing a high generating capacity as a solar cell.

[0124]

Generally, the energy conversion efficiency of a conventional
20 solar cell is only 15%. Accordingly, in order to increase the generating capacity, the area of the photoelectric transducer itself

light receiving area can be increased so as to efficiently focus the light striking against the light receiving area to the photo detector 52 by increasing the whole area of the light receiver 64 without increasing the area of the photoelectric transducer itself, thereby enhancing the generating capacity with an economical means. In particular, according to the configuration of this embodiment, the light focus efficiency can be increased two times or more, and the substantial energy conversion efficiency also can be increased two times or more.

[0125]

10 Furthermore, according to this light receiver 64, the efficiency can be enhanced with retaining the thin configuration, whereby a thin configuration can be applied to a solar panel put on a roof of a house, a road tack, or delineator.

[0126]

15 In the light receiver 64 shown in Fig. 30 or 31, a photoelectric transducer can be mounted as the photo detector 52.

[0127]

(Twenty-second Embodiment)

Fig. 34 is a perspective view of a light emission source 65 according to a twenty-second embodiment, Fig. 35 at (a) is a front view of the source, Fig. 35 at (b) is a sectional view taken along

emitter 12 such as a light emitting diode (LED chip) is sealed in a mold resin 13 made of a transparent resin material. The light emitter 12 sealed in the mold resin 13 is mounted on a stem 15 disposed on a leading edge of a lead frame 17, and connected with another lead frame 14 by means of a bonding wire 16, and a light emission side thereof is disposed toward a front of the light emission source 65.

[0128]

A light reflecting portion 20 is composed of a metallic component which is molded in a parabola shape by press working, and its surface is applied by specular working of plating aluminum or silver thereon. If desired, the light reflecting portion 20 may be done by chemical processing applied to a pressed part made of aluminum or silver to bring glossiness on the surface thereof. The light reflecting portion 20 at a center thereof includes an aperture 20a for accommodating the stem 15, and is sealed with the lead frames 14 and 17 within the mold resin 13 where the aperture 20a accommodates the stem mounted by the light emitter 12.

[0129]

As shown in Fig. 35 at (a), the light reflecting portion 20 has major and minor axis directions when it is viewed from its front, and a generally elliptic shape in this embodiment. An outer

large clearance does not occur between the outer circumferential edge of the light reflecting portion 20 and the front face of the mold resin 13 so that any light is prevented from leaking through the clearance and becoming loss.

5 [0130]

The section in the major axis direction as shown in Fig. 35 at (b) and the section in the minor axis direction as shown in Fig. 35 at (c) are curved in a concave, but in different shapes. In other words, the distribution field of curvature of the section in the major
10 axis direction is different from the distribution field of the section in the minor axis direction. The distribution field of curvature of the section in the major axis direction is shifted toward a smaller value than the distribution field of the section in the minor axis direction.

15 [0131]

As long as the section of the light reflecting portion 20 is in an arc shape either in the major and minor axis directions, when a radius of a section in the major axis direction is R_1 and a radius of the section in the minor axis direction is R_s ;

20 $(1/R_1) < (1/R_s)$

In other words, the radius R_1 in the major axis direction is larger

When the section of the light reflecting portion 20 is not arc-shaped, the curvature varies with a location in the sections of the major and minor directions so that it has a spread (distribution). For instance, this case can be featured by a central value of a distribution of curvature. Assuming that the curvature in the major direction has the minimum value $(\rho l)_{\min}$ and the maximum value $(\rho l)_{\max}$ and the curvature in the minor direction has the minimum value $(\rho s)_{\min}$ and the maximum value $(\rho s)_{\max}$, the respective central values $(\rho l)_c$ and $(\rho s)_c$ are expressed by the following equations;

$$10 \quad \text{Major axis direction: } (\rho l)_c = \{(\rho l)_{\min} + (\rho l)_{\max}\} / 2$$

$$\text{Minor axis direction: } (\rho s)_c = \{(\rho s)_{\min} + (\rho s)_{\max}\} / 2$$

Accordingly, in the light reflecting member 20 employed in the light emission source 65 according to this invention, the central value $(\rho l)_c$ of the curvature in the section in the major axis direction has only to be smaller than the central value $(\rho s)_c$ of the curvature in the section in the minor axis direction as expressed by the following equation;

$$(\rho l)_c < (\rho s)_c$$

[0133]

20 If desired, both ends of the distribution of curvatures are featured by the minimum and maximum values, and the following equation

$$(\rho l)_{\max} \cdot (\rho s)_{\max}$$

provided that this equal sign does not happen simultaneously.

[0134]

In a front central portion of the mold resin 13, there are formed
 5 a direct emission region 18 in a convex lens shape, and a total reflection
 region 19 of a flat shape to surround the direct emission region 18.
 The direct emission region 18 is formed so that its optical axis accords
 with the optical axis of the light emitter 12, and the total reflection
 region 19 is a plane perpendicular to the optical axis of the light
 10 emitter 12. The light emitter 12 is located in a focal point of the
 direct emission region 18 or in its neighborhood. The angle of a
 direction against the optical axis, viewed from the light emitter 12
 toward a boundary between the direct emission region 18 and the total
 reflection region 19, is designed to be equal to the critical angle
 15 θ_c of the total reflection between the mold resin 13 and air, or larger.

[0135]

When the direct emission region 18 having a lens shape is viewed
 from its front, it has a generally ellipse shape having a major axis
 direction and a minor axis direction, and the respective major and
 20 minor axis directions accord with the major and minor axis directions
 of the light reflecting portion 20. In the direct emission region

a section in a minor axis direction, and, particularly, the curvature distribution of the section in the major axis direction is shifted to a side of a smaller value than the curvature distribution of the section in the minor direction. Shifting the curvature distribution of the section in the major axis direction to the side of the smaller value than the curvature distribution of the section in the minor direction has same meaning as that of the light reflecting portion 20.

[0136]

10 The light radiated to the direct emission region 18 in the light emitted from the light emitter 12 is directly emitted forward from a front of the mold resin 13 as an approximately paralleled light. The light emitted to the total reflection region 19 in the light emitted from the light emitter 12 is totally reflected by a resin boundary surface, and almost of the totally reflected light by the resin boundary surface is reflected by the light reflecting portion 20 to be emitted forward from the total reflection region 19. Thus, almost all light emitted forwardly from the light emitter 12 (viz. including the light totally reflected by the total reflection region 19) can be brought
15 into a front of the light emission source 65, thereby improving the efficiency of light use. Moreover, the light emitted forward from
20

in the above-described conventional light emission source is avoided and the directive pattern is improved.

[0137]

Furthermore, the light emitted from the light emitter 12 in
5 a diagonal direction is totally reflected by the total reflection region 19, and reflected by the light reflecting portion 20 to be emitted forward so as to prolong the light length becomes long, whereby the aberration is reduced and the light emission source 65 can be provided with a high accuracy.

10 [0138]

The light reflecting portion 20 has a generally ellipse configuration, whereby the light reflected by the light reflecting portion 20 to be emitted forward becomes beams having an emission profile in a generally elliptic shape as shown in Fig. 36. The direct emission
15 region 18 also has a generally elliptic shape a major axis direction of which accords with the major axis direction of the light reflecting portion 20, so that the light beams emitted from the direct emission region 18 have a section in a generally elliptic shape. Accordingly, as shown in Fig. 37, the light emitted from the direct emission region
20 18 supplements the light emitted from the total reflection region 19, so that combination of the light emitted from the direct emission region

profile.

[0139]

When, in order to emit light in a generally elliptic shape spreading in one direction, a hemisphere-shaped metal member having
5 a constant curvature in an optional direction is prepared and both sides of the metal member are cut to provide a light reflecting portion which is lengthened longitudinally, there appears a large clearance between the cut portion and a front face of the mold resin through which light leaks, thereby deteriorating the efficiency of light use.
10 Such a clearance can be reduced by having a curvature varying with directions, thereby enhancing brightness of the light emission source
65. When the curvatures in orthogonal two directions in the light reflecting portion 20 having a circle in its front view are different, the spread of the reflection light can be different, thereby providing
15 emission light of a generally elliptic profile spreading in one direction. When the light reflecting portion 20 has an elliptic shape, the design of the light reflecting portion 20 becomes easy.

[0140]

The light reflecting portion 20 can be realized by employing
20 an aspherical surface of a toric surface or a biconical surface, and a more uniform beam profile can be designed. Fig. 38 at (a) shows

a Y axis in a minor axis direction, and a Z axis in a front direction, the light reflecting surface of the light reflection portion 20 having the biconical surface can be expressed by the following equation (1);

[0141]

5 [Equation 1]

$$Z = \frac{cvxX^2 + cvY^2}{1 + \sqrt{1 - cvx^2(ccx + 1)X^2 - cv^2(cc + 1)Y^2}} + aX^4 + bY^4 + cX^6 + dY^6 + \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

[0142]

When a sectional configuration in a XZ plane of the biconical surface is expressed by "Z=g1(X)", a curvature of the curve is expressed by "cv", the conic coefficient is expressed by "cc", and a sectional configuration in a YZ plane is expressed by "Z=g2(Y)", the curvature of this curve becomes "cvx(/ cv)", and the conic coefficient becomes "ccx", provided that "a,b,c,d" are coefficients of terms of high order.

[0143]

15 (Twenty-third Embodiment)

Fig. 39 at (a) is a front view of a light emission source 66 according to a twenty-third embodiment. Fig. 39 at (b) and (c) shows

to be curved in a convex shape on sections in its major and minor axis directions. The light reflecting portion is sealed within a mold resin 13 molded in a rectangular shape, and an external of the light emission source 66 has a rectangular configuration when it is viewed from its front.

[0144]

The light emission source 66 having such a configuration can emit light beams that are uniform in a generally elliptic-shaped profile as shown in Fig. 40, same as the fifteenth embodiment.

[0145]

(Twenty-fourth Embodiment)

Fig. 41 at (a) is a front view of a light emission source 67 according to a twenty-fourth embodiment. Fig. 41 at (b) and (c) shows sectional views taken along lines X3-X3 and Y3-Y3 of Fig. 41 at (a). In this embodiment, there is employed a light reflecting portion 20 having a front configuration in a generally rectangular shape which is made by cutting four sides of a light reflecting portion 68 having a front configuration in an elliptic shape as shown in two-dotted lines of Fig. 41. This is sealed within a mold resin 13 molded in a rectangular shape, and the external configuration of the light emission source 67 has a rectangular shape when it is viewed from its front.

having a profile in a rectangular shape as shown in Fig. 42. This source 67 is also preferable to the application of a high mount strap lamp mounted on an automobile because uniform beams are desired to be radiated to a limited rectangular area.

5 [0147]

Though the design of a beam profile (directional pattern) in a conventional light emission source (LED) depends on only the parameters of a curvature of an optical lens surface and a spacing between an LED chip and the lens surface causing the light emission source to become thick in a direction of an optical axis, the light emission source of this invention allows flexible design depending on a configuration of the light reflecting portion so that the light emission source 67 may become thin in a direction of an optical axis. In other words, the light emission sources of the twenty-second to twenty-fourth embodiments (Figs. 34 to 42) may provide thin light emission sources capable of emitting light to a broad area. Particularly the light emission source 67 is desirable in the application, such as a high mount strap lamp, requiring an optically limited narrow space (particularly depth) and radiation to a wide area.

20 [0148]

(Twenty-fifth Embodiment)

FIG. 34 is a perspective view of a light emitting device according to the twenty-fifth embodiment of the present invention.

sectional views taken along lines X3-X3 and Y3-Y3 of Fig. 43 at (a). The light emission source 69 of Fig. 43 includes a tapered portion 19b of a tapered configuration around a direct emission region 18 and a flat portion 19a around the tapered portion 19b. The tapered portion 19b makes an angle smaller than 90 degrees from a light emission direction, and the flat portion 19a is perpendicular to the optical axis. All light striking against the flat portion 19a is totally reflected by setting the angle of the direction from the light emitter 12, viewed from the light emitter 12 to a boundary between the tapered portion 19b and the flat portion 19a, to become bigger than the critical angle θ_c of the total reflection on a boundary surface of the mold resin 13. All light striking against the tapered portion 19b is totally reflected by setting the gradient angle so that the light striking against the boundary between the tapered portion 19b and the flat portion 19a can be totally reflected by the tapered portion 19b. Accordingly, the tapered portion 19b and the flat portion 19a provide a total reflection region 19, and the light which cannot be totally reflected on the flat portion 19a can be totally reflected on the tapered portion 19b, which are directed forward by reflection on light reflecting portion 20, thereby improving the efficiency of light emission by the light emission source 69.

wherein the light reflecting portion 20 is a light reflecting member.

shape in a front view is designed, particularly when the light emission profile and efficiency in a major direction of the elliptic shape is considered, the region (total reflection region 19) where the light emitted from the light emitter 12 is totally reflected on the boundary surface of the mold resin 13 becomes narrow or disappears in the minor direction.

[0150]

In such a case, formation of the tapered portion 19b becomes effective. In order to increase the total reflection region shown in Fig. 43, the tapered portion 19b has only to be formed so that the ratio shared by the tapered portion 19b in the minor axis direction is larger than the ratio shared by the tapered portion 19a in the major axis direction and the external configuration of the tapered portion 19b does not have any similarity relationship with the external configuration of the direct emission region 18 nor the light reflecting portion 20 when the light emission source 69 is viewed from its front. There is a case such that the major and minor axis directions in the external shape of the tapered portion 19b when it is viewed from its front are reversed to the direct emission region 18 and the light reflecting portion 20. Thus construction can improve the efficiency of the light emission source 69 in its minor axis direction.

the light emitter 12 close to the resin boundary surface like a light emission source 70 shown in Fig. 44 when the light emission profile or the efficiency in the minor axis direction is considered in designing or when limitation is produced from the external configuration or the light emission profile of the light emission source 69. In such a case, there may happen a case such that an emission angle of light emitted from the light emitter 12 (angle from the optical axis) becomes large, for example, larger than 70 degrees at an edge of the resin boundary surface in the major axis direction as shown in Fig. 45 at (a). Thus light of the angle has low intensity, so that the light intensity of LED becomes small and the brightness of the light emission source becomes uneven.

[0152]

In such a case, the brightness at the edge of the resin boundary surface can be improved and the brightness of the light emission source 69 can become generally uniform by setting the angle of the tapered portion 19b in a section of the major axis direction into the total reflection angle or larger so as to bring the light totally reflected at the tapered portion 19b into the edge of the resin boundary surface as shown in Fig. 45 at (b). In this case, the external configuration of the tapered portion 19b when the light emission source 69 is viewed

light reflecting portion 20, and there may be a case such that the ratio of the major axis and minor axis becomes larger.

[0153]

The configuration having major and minor axis directions when
5 it is viewed from its front can be applied to a light receiver as shown in Fig. 34 and its subsequent figures.

[0154]

(Twenty-sixth Embodiment)

Fig. 46 at (a) and (b) shows front and sectional views of a
10 light emission source 71 according to a twenty-sixth embodiment. The light emission source 71 includes a chip-type light emitter 12 such as an LED chip mounted on a circuit board 73, and a disc-shaped optical module (optical component) 72 disposed to cover the emitter.

[0155]

15 The optical module 72 is a mold in which a light reflecting portion 20 is insert-molded within a mold resin 13, and a convex lens-shaped direct emission region 18 and a total reflection region 19 are formed on a surface of the mold resin 13. In addition, an element mounting portion 74 in a concave shape is formed at a position on a
20 rear face of the mold resin 13 corresponding to an aperture 20a of the light reflecting portion 20 to be accommodated within the aperture

direction so that an optical axis of light emitted from the light emitter 12 is not bent when the emitted light strikes against the optical module 72. The light emission source 71 is constructed so that the optical module 72 is put on the chip-type light emitter 12 of a surface-mount type which is mounted on the circuit board 73 so that the light emitter 12 may be housed within the element mounting portion 74. Positional adjustment of the light emitter 12 and the optical module 72 is eased and it can be efficiently assembled by matching the dimensions of the element mounting portion 74 with the external dimensions of the light emitter 12.

[0156]

Employment of the optical module 72 can provide same functions and effects as those in the above-described light emission sources where the light emitter 12 is buried within the mold resin 13. As shown in Fig. 46 at (b), the light emitted forward from the light emitter 12 enters within the mold resin 13 through the element mounting portion 74 to advance within the mold resin 13 for forward emission from the direct emission region 18. The light emitted in a diagonal direction from the light emitter 12 intrudes into the mold resin 13 through the element mounting portion 74 to advance within the mold resin 13, reaches the total reflection region 19 to be totally reflected thereby, and

from the light emitter 12 is widened to be emitted from the optical module 72 to a large area in comparison with the dimensions of the light emitter 12, thereby performing a large scale light emission face.

[0157]

5 The optical loss by covering with the optical module 72 consists of the incidence loss into the optical module 72, the fresnel loss on emission from a front surface of the mold resin 13, and the minor reflection loss by the light reflecting portion 20, whereby approximately 90% of the light emitted from the light emitter 12 is
10 efficiently emitted forward from the optical module 72.

[0158]

Furthermore, the emission direction from the light emission source 71 employing the optical module 72 can be freely designed, so that spatially small construction can be performed in comparison with
15 employment of an optical lens to obtain same effects. Though most of applications employing LED chips have spatial limitations, the employment of the optical module 72 is effective on the applications.

[0159]

Thus optical module 72 can be applied to the light emitter 12
20 already mounted on the circuit board 73, so that larger scale and higher efficiency of the light emission area of the light emitter 12 can be

Though this embodiment employs the LED chip, same effects can be provided when the optical module 72 is enlarged in dimensions or applied to a light source such as an electric lamp or a fluorescent lamp other than the LED chip.

5 [0161]

(Twenty-seventh Embodiment)

Fig. 47 is a front view of a light emission source 75 according to a twenty-seventh embodiment. The light emission source 75 includes major and minor axis directions, and exemplarily employs an optical
10 module 72 having a rectangular configuration. As the optical module 72 is employed, the light spread in the major axis direction is different from the same in the minor axis direction, so that emission light having a profile in a rectangular or elliptic shape can be performed, thereby providing light emission source 75 corresponding to the twenty-second
15 embodiment (Fig. 34) by employing the optical module 72.

[0162]

In addition to this, same functions as those of above-described kinds of light emission sources can be performed by changing the construction of the optical module 72.

20 [0163]

(Twenty-eighth Embodiment)

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the same. The light receiver 76 is constructed by covering a photo detector 52 mounted on a circuit board 73 with an optical module 77, and disposing the photo detector 52 within an element mounting portion 78. The kind of the photo detector 52 is not particularly limited, but can be applied to a general photodiode or phototransistor such as a light receiver having a lead 50a as shown in Fig. 50 at (a) and (b).

[0164]

This optical module 77 is a mold in which a light reflecting portion 53 is insert-molded within a mold resin 54, and a direct incidence region 59 in a convex lens-shape and a flat region 60 are formed on a surface of the mold resin 54. In addition, an element mounting portion 78 in a concave shape is formed at a position on a rear face of the mold resin 54 corresponding to an aperture 61 of the light reflecting portion 53 to be accommodated within the aperture 61. The element mounting portion 78 is formed in a generally hemispherical shape to be generally perpendicular to light in each direction so that an optical axis of light emitted from the optical module 77 to the photo detector 52 is not bent. The light receiver 76 is constructed so that the optical module 77 may cover the photo detector 52 mounted on the circuit board 73 and the photo detector 52 may be housed within the element mounting

the dimensions of the element mounting portion 78 with the external dimensions of the photo detector 52.

[0165]

In the light receiver 76, the incident light striking against the direct incidence region 59 of the optical module 77 advances within the mold resin 54, and exists from the element mounting portion 78 to strike against the photo detector 52. The light striking against the flat portion of the optical module 77 advances within the mold resin 54 to be reflected by the light reflecting portion 53 toward the flat region 60, and the reflected light is further totally reflected by the flat region 60 to exit from the element mounting portion 78 for incidence to the photo detector 52. Accordingly, the optical module 77 serves as a large area optical lens, and light having a large area can be received by the photo detector 52 by employing the module 77 which is large in comparison with the photo detector 52.

[0166]

Though spatially large area is necessary for obtaining similar functions and effects by employing a lens, a thin configuration can be performed by employing this optical module 77.

20 [0167]

In case of light receiver, same function as that of the

[0168]

Thought the optical module 72 for the light emission source and the optical module 77 for the light receiver are separately described here, but they may be used in common if desired.

5 [0169]

(Twenty-ninth Embodiment)

Fig. 51 shows a sectional view of a light emission source 79 according to a twenty-ninth embodiment. In this embodiment, a light reflecting portion 20 is not inserted within an optical module 72 covering a light emitter 12. A Fresnel lens-shaped pattern 80 of a reflection type is formed on a rear surface of a mold resin 13 instead, and a reflection coating 81 consisting of a metal evaporation film is formed on a surface of the pattern 80. In addition, a support portion 82 of a cylindrical type is molded together with an outer circumferential portion of the mold resin 13 as a single unit for stabilization with a surface of a circuit board 73.

15 [0170]

By such a configuration, same effect as that of the twenty-seventh embodiment (Fig. 46) is provided. Besides, because insert-molding the light reflecting portion 20 within the mold resin 13 is not necessary, the number of components can be reduced and the manufacturing cost

efficiency of a molding process for the optical module 72.

[0171]

(Thirtieth Embodiment)

Fig. 52 shows a sectional view of a light emission source 83 according to a thirtieth embodiment. In this embodiment, a direct emission region 18 is inconsiderably formed in the center of a surface of a mold resin 13, a major portion serves as total reflection region 19. The direct emission region 18 is composed of a shallow recess.

[0172]

10 In this embodiment, the light emitted forward from the light emitter 12 is totally reflected by the total reflection region 19 as far as possible, and the emission direction can be controlled by the light reflecting portion 20. This embodiment can respond when any direct emission region 18 having a convex lens shape cannot be formed
15 due to a spatial constraint by lifting controllability of outgoing beams, when the light emitted from the light emitter 12 has an unbalanced angle of beam spread and is not near lambert distribution, when light cannot be emitted in a desired direction in the convex lens-shaped direct emission region 18, and when a greater area is necessary and
20 light is wanted to be distributed to an end surface direction of the optical module 72.

FIG. 52

Fig. 53 shows a sectional view of a light emission source 84 according to a thirty-first embodiment, in which a direct emission region 18 and a total reflection region 19 are formed in a planar fashion. As shown in Fig. 54, an element mounting portion 74 of an optical module 72 consists of a sphere-shaped division 74a and a small crater 74c having a narrow width which appears from a center of the division 74a to its front within a mold resin 13. A boundary portion 74b between the sphere-shaped division 74a and the crater 74c curves smoothly. The sphere-shaped division 74a and the crater 74c are formed to be approximately perpendicular to a direction of the light emitted from the light emitter 12, and boundary portion 74b slants against direction of the light emitted from the light emitter 12.

[0174]

In the crater 74c the light emitted forward from the light emitter 12 advances forwardly to be emitted without changing the optical axis direction. Thus, when the light emission source 84 is viewed from its front, light is emitted from its center. In the boundary portion 74b, the light emitted forward from the light emitter 12 is refracted to be bent to the total reflection region 19, and its emission direction is controlled by the light reflecting portion 20. The light emitted from the light emitter 12 in a diagonal direction advances at the

10 (Thirty-second Embodiment)

Fig. 55 shows a sectional view of a light emission source 85 according to a thirty-second embodiment, in which a direct emission region 18 and a total reflection region 19 are formed in a planar fashion. An element mounting portion 74 of an optical module 72 is formed in a truncated cone configuration.

The optical module 72 employing the element mounting portion 74 having such a configuration can emit the light emitted from the light emitter 12 to a top face of the element mounting part 74 toward its front without changing its direction. As shown in Fig. 56, in the light emitted from the light emitter 12 to an incline surface of

by broken lines in the event of a sphere-shaped element mounting portion 74), and its emission direction is controlled by light reflecting portion 20. Light L5 perpendicularly striking against the incline surface of the element mounting portion 74 from the light emitter 12 goes straight to be totally reflected by the total reflection region 19, and its emission direction is controlled by the light reflecting portion 20. Accordingly, this embodiment can provide same effect as that of the thirty first embodiment.

[0177]

10 Furthermore, when the element mounting part 74 is sphere-shaped, light L6 emitted from light emitter 12 to a side direction (at an angle of about 70 degrees or greater to the optical axis) directly strikes against the light reflecting portion 20 to be reflected thereby for spreading outwardly as shown in broken lines. When the element mounting
15 part 74 is in a truncated cone shape, the light L6 is refracted with the incline of the element mounting portion 74 to go straight to the total reflection region 19 for total reflection, and the totally reflected light is reflected by the light reflecting portion 20 to be emitted forward.

20 [0178]

(Thirty-third Embodiment)

312 according to a thirty-third embodiment of this invention. In the light emitter 313, an LED chip 316 is mounted on a stem 315 disposed on a head of a lead 314, and the LED chip 316 and another lead 317 are connected by a bonding wire 318, which are molded with a transparent mold resin 319 in a cannonball shape. The light emitter 313 is a conventional component which is commercially available.

[0179]

As shown in Fig. 57 at (b), in the optical module 312, a light reflecting member 321 insert-molded within a transparent resin 320.

10 The optical module 312 has a circle cyclic or doughnut shaped configuration, an open hole (aperture) 322 in the center of the module serves as an element mounting position for mounting the light emitter 313. The light reflecting member 321 is a metal component molded in a parabola shape by press working, a center of which is open in accordance

15 with the open hole of the optical module 312, and a surface of which is processed with specular working by aluminum or silver plating. If desired, the light reflecting portion 321 may be done by chemical processing applied to a pressed part made of aluminium or silver to bring glossiness on the surface thereof. An outer circumferential

20 edge or inner circumferential edge of the light reflecting member 321 is designed to be positioned at a corner of an outer circumferential

mold when the light reflecting member 321 is inserted within the transparent resin 320.

[0180]

The light emitter 313 is mounted in the open hole 322 that is
5 the element mounting position of the optical module 312, the light
emitter 313 and the optical module 312 are housed within a housing
323, a transparent resin 324 is filled within the housing 323 to be
filled in a spacing between an inner wall of the open hole 322 of the
optical module 312 and the light emitter 313, thereby constructing
10 the light emission source 311 in an integrated fashion.

[0181]

The light emitted from the LED chip 316 of the light emitter
313 to a front is emitted forward from the light emitter 313 as shown
in Fig. 57 at (a).

15 The light emitted from the LED chip 316 in a diagonal direction
appears from a side of the light emitter 313 to enter into the optical
module 312 through the open hole 322, and is totally reflected by a
total reflection region (resin boundary surface) 325 having a planar
shape to go to the light reflecting member 321, and reflected by the
20 light reflecting member 321 to be emitted forward from the total
reflection region 325 of the transparent resin 320.

from the LED chip 316 in a diagonal direction or a transverse direction is reflected by the total reflection region 325 and the light reflecting member 321 to be emitted forward, thereby increasing the emission angle of usable light, viz., an angle of field α and performing more bright light distribution. Moreover, the optical module 312 is disposed near the light emitter 313, and the light emitted from the light emitter 313 is reflected by the total reflection region 325 and the light reflecting member 321 to be emitted forward, so that the optical system is not spatially large and the light emission source 311 itself can be miniaturized. Further, the emission direction of the light can be freely designed by means of the configuration of light reflecting member 321.

[0183]

In this light emission source 311, the optical module 312 and the light emitter 313 are different separated components, so that they are individually quality-controlled and the defective factor of the light emission source 311 can be reduced.

[0184]

(Thirty-fourth Embodiment)

Fig. 58 shows a sectional view of a light emission source 326 in which a light emitter 313 is mounted in an optical module 327 according

optical module 327 in a ring shape, and a transparent resin is filled between an internal circumference face of the optical module 327 and the light emitter 313 to unit with the optical module 312 and the light emitter 313 as a single unit. As thus described, when a transparent resin having a same index of refraction as that of the mold resin 319 and the transparent resin 320 is filled between the optical module 312 and the light emitter 313, loss of light by Fresnel loss or the like can be reduced.

[0185]

10 The light emission source 326 can be miniaturized in comparison with the light emission source 311 of the thirty-third embodiment because the housing 323 can be omitted in this embodiment.

[0186]

(Thirty-fifth Embodiment)

15 Fig. 59 shows a sectional view of a light emission source 328 in which a light emitter 329 of a heat dissipation type is mounted in an optical module 327 according to a thirty-fifth embodiment of this invention. The light emitter 329 of the heat dissipation type includes an LED chip 316 mounted on a high heat sink portion 330 having
20 a high thermal conductivity, and a transparent mold resin 332 covering an outer circumference face and a top face of the heat sink portion

heat sink part 330 for increasing the radiating area. In the light emitter 329 of this heat dissipation type, a convex lens-shaped optical lens division 333 is disposed in a central part of the mold resin 332 opposing to the LED chip 316.

5 [0187]

In the light emitter 329 of this type, only the optical lens division 333 is inserted in an open hole 322 of the optical module 327 to be assembled, while there is provided a small clearance between a lower wall of the optical module 327 and a peripheral wall of the optical lens division 333.

[0188]

By combining the light emitter 329 of such a heat dissipation type with the optical module 327, more bright light distribution can be performed without losing the heat dissipation nature.

15 [0189]

(Thirty-sixth Embodiment)

Fig. 60 is a sectional view of a light emission source 341 in which that an optical module 342 is mounted on a cannonball-shaped light emitter 313 according to a thirty-sixth embodiment of this invention. In this light emission source 341, an open hole 322 of the optical module 342 does not open on the straight, but has a

In this embodiment, when the light emitter 313 is inserted in the open hole 322 of the optical module 342, the light emitter 313 and the optical module 342 are easy to come to agree with just, and dispersion of the insert depth of the light emitter 313 can be avoided.

5 Accordingly, assembling is easy, thereby reducing its manufacturing cost. In this embodiment, the light emitter 313 can be inserted into the optical module 342 by means of press fit.

[0191]

(Thirty-seventh Embodiment)

10 Fig. 61 shows a sectional view of a sectional view of a light emission source 343 in which a cannonball-shaped light emitter 313 is inserted within an optical module 344 according to a thirty-seventh embodiment of this invention. In this light emission source 343, a convex portion 345 having a generally triangle shaped section is
15 disposed on a top face of the optical module 344 to surround an open hole 322, and an incline face of the convex portion 345 becomes high at its inner side.

[0192]

In this embodiment, the convex portion 345 is disposed on the
20 open hole 322, and a surface of the convex portion 345 is inclined to protrude at its internal circumference side, total reflection of

portion 345. Therefore, there is hard to appear any dark portion between the light emitted from an optical lens portion (sphere portion) 346 of the light emitter 313 and the light emitted from total reflection region 325 after reflection by light reflecting member 321. This
5 embodiment may employ the light emitter 329 of the heat dissipation type.

[0193]

(Thirty-eighth Embodiment)

Fig. 62 shows is a sectional view of a light emission source
10 347 in which a light emitter 313 is mounted on an optical module 348 according to a thirty-eighth embodiment of this invention. In this embodiment, an edge of an open hole 322 of the optical module 348 is diagonally beveled to provide a beveled portion 349, thereby preventing light from being directly emitted without total reflection at an
15 internal circumference portion of a total reflection region 325. Therefore, development of stray light in the internal circumference portion of the total reflection region 325 can be prevented. If desired, this embodiment may employ a light emitter of a heat dissipation type.

[0194]

20 (Thirty-ninth Embodiment)

Fig. 63 shows a sectional view of a light emission source 350

invention. In this embodiment, a positioning portion 353 of a concave shape is disposed at an internal circumference of an open hole 322 of the optical module 351, and a positioning portion 354 in a convex shape is disposed at an outside circumference of a rear end of mold resin 319 of the light emitter 352.

[0195]

Therefore, when the optical module 351 and the light emitter 352 are assembled, the positioning portions 353 and 354 are engaged each other, whereby optical axes of the optical module 31 and the light emitter 352 can be adjusted each other and the insert depth to the open hole 322 of the light emitter 352 can be constant. Accordingly, assembling the light emission source 350 becomes easy, and the assembly accuracy of the light emission source 350 is improved.

[0196]

15 (Fortieth Embodiment)

Fig. 64 shows a fortieth embodiment of this invention. In this light emission source 355, an optical module 327 of a ring shape is disposed on a circuit board 356 mounted by an LED chip 316, wherein the light emitted forwardly from the LED chip 316 to an air is directly emitted forward, the light emitted from LED chip 316 in a transverse direction enters into a transparent resin 320 through an internal

further reflected by a light reflecting member 321 to be emitted forward from the total reflection region 325.

[0197]

In this light emission source 355, the LED chip 316 is not covered
5 with any resin. Accordingly, when the light emitted from the LED chip 316 in a transverse direction penetrates into transparent resin 320 of the optical module 327 through the internal circumference face, the beam of light is refracted by a relatively large angle β . When light beams emitted in a same direction are compared each other, light
10 is more easily spread outwardly in comparison with the LED chip 316 sealed by a resin (such as mold resin 319), so that a large size light emission source can be performed by increasing the light emission area of the light emission source 355.

[0198]

15 (Forty-first Embodiment)

Fig. 65 shows a sectional view of a light emission source 357 in which an optical module 358 is mounted on a cannonball-shaped light emitter 313 according to a forty-first embodiment of this invention. In the optical module 358 employed in the light emission source 357,
20 a front of light emitter 313 is covered with a transparent resin 320. In a front wall of the transparent resin 320 (resin boundary surface),

of the lens portion 359 is composed of a flat total reflection region 325. A rear wall of the lens portion 359 is formed to be a concave portion 360 (element mounting location) having a concave configuration just fitted by the light emitter 313.

5 [0199]

According to this light emission source 357, the light emitted forward from an LED chip 316 enters into the transparent resin 320 of the optical module 358, and is focused by a lens function when it is emitted from the optical lens portion 359 of the optical module 10 358. The light emitted from LED chip in a transverse direction is totally reflected by total reflection region 325 of optical module 358 to be directed to the light reflecting member 321, and the light reflected by the light reflecting member 321 is emitted forward through the total reflection region 325 of the transparent resin 320. Therefore, 15 the light emitted from total reflection region 325 also is focused by an optical function by the light reflecting member 321. Accordingly, light emitted from the LED chip 316 in any directions is focused by optical functions, and an emission area of the light emission source 357 can be increased.

20 [0200]

When the configuration of a front of the light emitter 313 and

optical module 358 on the light emitter 313 consists of only loss when the light enters into the optical module 358 from the light emitter 313, Fresnel loss when the light is emitted from the optical module 358, and a little anti-loss in the light reflecting member 321, so
5 that about 90% of the light emitted from the LED chip 316 is efficiently emitted from the light emission source 357 to external.

[0201]

Thus, there is provided the construction the light emitter 313 fits with the concave portion 360 of the optical module 358, so that
10 positioning becomes easy when the light emitter 313 is mounted on the optical module 358. Because of easy positioning, the optical module 358 can be easily detached from the light emitter 313, and a desired optical module can be chosen by preparing plural kinds of optical modules each having a different angle of beam spread and light distribution
15 characteristics.

[0202]

Fig. 66 at (a) to (c) is a schematic diagram a manufacturing process of the above-described light emission source 357. As shown in Fig. 66 at (a), a cavity 362 for molding an external configuration
20 of the optical module 358 and a concave portion 363 for molding the lens portion 359 are formed in a molding metal mold 361. The light

the light emitter 313 is put within the cavity 362 so as to be located within an opening in the center of the light reflecting member 321 and held in space. With this condition, transparent resin 320 is injected within the cavity 362 to be hardened as shown in Fig. 66 at

5 (b) for molding optical module 358 together with the light emitter 313 as a single unit. As shown in Fig. 66 at (c), it is detached from the cavity 362 of the molding metal mold 361 to provide the above-describe light emission source 357.

[0203]

10 In thus produced light emission source 357, any air space is not produced between the light emitter 313 and the optical module 358, and light is hard to be reflected by air space produced between the light emitter 313 and the optical module 358, thereby improving the optical coupling efficiency between the light emitter 313 and the

15 optical module 358. According to thus manufacturing process, the manufacturing process of the optical module 358 and the assembly process of the optical module 358 and the light emitter 313 are executed at one time, whereby the whole manufacturing process is streamlined. As a result a whole manufacturing cost is reduced, and the accuracy of

20 a positional relationship between the light emitter 313 and the optical module 358 can be ensured.

is covered with the optical lens portion 359 can be realized even if light emitter 329 of a heat dissipation type is employed as shown in Fig. 67.

[0205]

5 (Forty-second Embodiment)

Fig. 68 shows a forty-second embodiment of this invention. An optical module 358 employed in a light emission source 364 of this embodiment is different from the optical module 358 shown in Fig. 65 because a front wall of a transparent resin 320 of the optical module 365 is formed to be flat and a portion confronting with a front face of a light emitter 313 becomes a flat wall 366 including a total reflection region 325.

[0206]

In this embodiment, the front face of the optical module 365 is not protruded, thereby reducing the dimensions of light emission source 364. A disadvantage such that foreign matter of dust catches a projection of the front wall (lens portion 359) to be stuck to the optical module 365 can be avoided.

[0207]

20 In addition, such a configuration can be employed in a light emitter and an LED chip, which are of a heat dissipation type.

Fig. 69 shows a light emission source 367 according to a forty-third embodiment of this invention, in which the same optical module 358 as that of Fig. 65 is employed to cover an LED chip 316 mounted on a circuit board 356. Though the light emission source 367 has a construction similar to the light emission source 355 of the fortieth embodiment (Fig. 64), the LED chip 316 of this light emission source 367 is housed within a concave portion 360 of the optical module 358 and is covered with the optical module 358, thereby increasing durability of the LED chip 316 and strengthening water resistance against a drop of water. In this light emission source 367, the light emitted forward from the LED chip 316 can be focused by lens portion 359. The concave portion 360 is formed to have a hemisphere face having a center at a light emission point of the LED chip 316, so that the light emitted from the LED chip 316 is hard to be reflected by a boundary surface of the concave portion 360 and loss of light can be decreased.

[0209]

A light emission source 368 shown in Fig. 70 is a modification of the above-described light emission source 367, in which a recess 369 is formed at a central portion of a front of optical module 358, and a lens portion 359 is disposed within the recess 369 not to protrude from the front of the optical module 358. According to this modified

source 368.

[0210]

A light emission source 370 shown in Fig. 71 is a modification of the above-described light emission source 367, in which a recessed portion 360 in a rectangular parallelepiped shape is formed along the configuration of LED chip 316 to accommodate the LED chip 316. Therefore, positioning of the optical module 358 can be easily performed by applying the recessed portion 360 to the LED chip 316 to be mounted thereon.

10 [0211]

(Forty-fourth Embodiment)

Fig. 72 shows a sectional view of a light emission source 373 according to a forty-fourth embodiment of this invention. In an optical module 374 employed in the this light emission source 373, a light reflecting member 321 is not buried in a transparent resin 320 which is disposed on a front face of the light reflecting member 321, a rear wall of the light reflecting member 321 made of metal is exposed. Since the rear wall of the light reflecting member 321 comes into direct contact with a fresh air, it is easy to come to externally radiate heat occurring when the light emission source 373 emits light. Accordingly, temperature rise of an LED chip 316 is controlled to small,

[0212]

In addition, a leg 375 is disposed on the rear wall of the light reflecting member 321 in order to stabilize the optical module 374 on a circuit board 356.

5 [0213]

This light emission source 373 can be applied to a high mount stop lamp of an automobile or a road traffic light machine which requires brightness, and such an application can be performed by a little number of light emission sources.

10 [0214]

(Forty-fifth Embodiment)

Fig. 73 shows a sectional view of a light receiver 376 according to a forty-fifth embodiment of this invention, in which an optical module 358 is disposed on a circuit board 356 to cover a photo detector 377 of a photo diode mounted on the circuit board 356. In Fig. 73, the optical module 358 employs the same as employed in the light emission source 367 of Fig. 69, but an optical module having a different construction may be employed if desired.

[0215]

20 In this light receiver 376, the light striking against an optical lens portion 359 is directly focused on the photo detector 377 by the

optical lens portion 359 is reflected by light reflecting member 321 through the total reflection region 325. The light reflected by the light reflecting member 321 and reaching the total reflection region 325 again is totally reflected by the total reflection region 325 to be focused on the photo detector 377.

[0216]

Therefore, according to the combination of the optical module 358 and the photo detector 377, the optical module 358 serves as a large optical lens so that large light receiving area is provided. In addition, even if the light receiving area is widened by enlarging the optical module 358 and make wide, the light receiver 376 can be avoided from a large-scale receiver employing a conventional optical lens, and can become thin.

[0217]

(Forty-sixth Embodiment)

Fig. 74 shows a sectional view of a light receiver 378 according to a forty-sixth embodiment of this invention. In an optical module 379 employed in the light receiver 378, cut portion 380 of a ring shape is formed at a stem (outer circumferential portion) of an optical lens portion 359 to incline at an angle γ to the optical axis direction. The angle γ is a critical angle of total reflection in a total reflection

[0218]

By arranging the cut portion 380, the optical lens portion 359 can be enlarged while the area where the light reflected by the light reflecting member 321 is totally reflected is enlarged to a limitation, whereby the light requirements in the photo detector 377 is increased and the light focus efficiency is improved. Design flexibility of the light receiver 378 is increased by enlarging the spacing between the optical lens portion 359 and the photo detector 377.

[0219]

10 The optical module 379 having thus construction can be applied to a light emission source, if desired.

[0220]

(Forty-seventy Embodiment)

Fig. 75 show a sectional view of a light emission source 381 according to a forty-seventy embodiment of this invention, which is a combination of a flat package-shaped light emitter 382 and an optical module 383. The flat package-shaped light emitter 382 includes a mold resin 319 having a flat-shaped front face (face in a light emission direction from an LED chip 316) flat-shaped. The optical module 383 includes a configuration similar to the optical module 358 employed in the light emission source 367 of Fig. 69, but is different from

wall of the mold resin 319 of the light emitter 382 to be bonded with transparent adhesives, and mounted on the light emitter 382. The light in the light emission source 381 takes same light paths as the paths described above.

5 [0221]

When thus flat-shaped light emission source 381 is used in an optical sensor, the detection distance becomes longer, and the detection accuracy also becomes higher than a conventional optical sensor, whereby the optical distance can be shortened and the optical
10 sensor can be reduced in dimensions.

[0222]

Fig. 76 shows a modification of the light emission source 384 in which an optical module 385 mounted on a front wall of a light emitter 382 of a flat package type is designed so that an optical lens portion
15 359 is not sprung by engagement with a recessed portion 369 at a periphery of a the lens portion 359, whereby the light emission source 384 can be thin.

[0223]

The light emission source 386 shown in Fig. 77 is another
20 modification, in which a recess portion 388 in a circular cone shape is formed at a front central part of an optical module 387 mounted

the light emitted forward from the LED chip 316 can be totally reflected, whereby quantity of light of the light which is emitted forward on straight from the LED chip 316 can be reduced.

[0224]

5 A light emission source 389 shown in Fig. 78 is still another modification, in which a shallow sphere-shaped recess portion 391 is formed at a front central part of an optical module 390. This light emission source 389 can control distribution of light quantity of the light emitted from a front wall of the optical module 390 by means
10 of the recess portion 391.

[0225]

A light emission source 392 shown in Fig. 79 is still another modification, in which a whole front wall of an optical module 390 is formed to be flat.

15 [0226]

(Forty-eighth Embodiment)

Fig. 80 shows a sectional view of a light emission source 393 according to a forty-eighth embodiment of this invention, in which a guiding portion 395 having a hook-shaped section is disposed on a
20 rear wall of an optical module 394 so as to catch a mold resin 319 of a light emitter 382 of a flat package type.

of the mold resin 319, the optical module 394 can be engaged with the mold resin 319 of the light emitter 382 by the guiding portion 395 as it is slid from the side.

[0228]

5 If the optical module 394 is molded together with the light emitter 382 as a single unit, the guiding portion 395 may be designed to catch four sides of the mold resin 319.

[0229]

(Forty-ninth Embodiment)

10 Fig. 81 is a view explaining a process for simultaneously producing a plurality of light emission sources. Fig. 81 at (a) shows light emission sources 392 before they are separated individually from lead frame 391. The lead frame 391 includes leads 314 and 317 and stems made by means of a punch processing, and LED chips are mounted
15 in connection with the lead frame 391 to be molded with a mold resin 319 for providing light emitters 392. In order to obtain each light emitter 392, each light emitter 392 is separated from the lead frame 392. In this embodiment, however, each light emitter 392 connected with the lead frame 391 is mounted by optical module 393.

20 [0230]

In the condition where each light emitter 392 is connected with

simultaneously mounted on the respective light emitters 392.

Accordingly, light emitters 392 and optical modules 393 can be assembled by a lead frame basis with a high accuracy and a little dispersion in manufacturing, and light emission sources can be assembled

5 accurately and effectively. On the other hand, when the light emitters 391 are fixed to the lead frame 391, each spacing between the light emitters 391 is limited, so that there might happen a case such that the spacing is insufficient. In such a case, both edges of each optical module 393 are cut off to be ellipse-shaped, and a minor axis direction
10 of each optical module 393 has only to be adjusted to the arrangement direction of light emitters 392 as shown in Fig. 81 at (b). Accordingly, area of each optical module 393 can be enlarged without being limited by spacing of light emitters 392, and the light emission source having a large area can be produced.

15 [0231]

(Fiftieth Embodiment)

Figs. 82 and 83 are perspective and sectional views of a light emission source array 400 according to a fiftieth embodiment of this invention. A plurality of LED chips 316 are arranged at predetermined
20 intervals on a circuit board 356 disposed on a pedestal base 401, and an optical module array 403 is put thereon. In the optical module

the respective light emission sources 402 are arranged at the predetermined intervals in the light emission source array 400, and designed to be individually energized.

[0232]

5 Fig. 84 shows a modification of the light emission source array, in which light emitters 405 each having a cannonball configuration are employed. In this modified light emission source array 404, the light emitters 405 are mounted on a circuit board 406 for a predetermined pitch, and an optical module array 407 having openings in locations
10 corresponding to the respective light emitters 405 is put on the circuit board 406. A light reflecting member 321 is disposed on the optical module array 407 to surround each opening.

[0233]

 In these light emission source arrays 404 and 404, the respective
15 light emission sources arranged on a face emit light, which may be used as a light emission display unit.

[0234]

 In order to produce the light emission source array, the respective light emission sources may be arranged on the circuit board,
20 in which they may be arranged in a honeycomb fashion by configuring each light emission source 408 in a round shape as shown in Fig. 85

as shown in Fig. 87.

[0235]

In addition, light emission sources 408 each having an ellipse shape may be arranged in a major axis direction as shown in Fig. 88.

5 Thus one dimension light emission source array may be used as a high mount stop lamp for a vehicle.

[0236]

(Fifty-first Embodiment)

Fig. 89 is a sectional view showing a configuration of a light
10 emission source 91 according to a thirty-third embodiment. In this light emission source 91, a stem 15 is disposed on a leading edge of a lead frame 17, a light emitter 12 such as an LED chip is die-bonded on the stem 15, and another lead frame 14 is bonded with the light emitter 12 by means of a bonding wire 16. A light reflecting portion
15 20 is molded aspherical by a metal plate, a specular working is applied to an inner wall of the metal plate by means of metal plating or etching, and an opening 20a is disposed in a generally central portion.

[0237]

Leading edges of the lead frame 17 mounted by the light emitter
20 12 and the lead frame 14 are passed in the opening 20a of the light reflecting portion 20 to be sealed together with the light reflecting

a front wall of the mold resin 13, and a direct emission region 18 in a convex lens-shape is formed in a generally central portion thereof.

[0238]

When the light emission source 91 is turned on, the light directly striking against the direct emission region 18 in the light emitted from the light emitter 12 is focused by the direct emission region 18 to be emitted forward. The light directly striking against the total reflection region 19 around the direct emission region 18 among the light emitted from the light emitter 12 is totally reflected backward by the total reflection region 19, further reflected by the light reflecting portion 20 located at the backward of the total reflection region 19 to be squeezed so that the directional pattern becomes small (preferably, approximately paralleled light), and emitted forward through the total reflection region 19. The light emitted in a direction at a large angle to the optical axis direction of the light emitter 12 can be emitted forward, thereby greatly improving the use efficiency of light. In addition, light can be emitted uniformly in a front of the light emitter 12.

[0239]

Furthermore, in this light emission source 91, a front of the mold resin 13 (total reflection region 19) is inclined by ϕ against

axis (center) F of the direct emission region 18 is shifted toward a tilt direction of the total reflection region 19 (upward direction in Fig. 89) than a geometrical center G of the total reflection region 19. The optical axis of the light emitter 12 is further shifted in the tilt direction of the total reflection region 19 than optical axis F of the direct emission region 18.

[0240]

A curved shape of the light reflecting portion 20 is depicted by one aspheric surface expression, and the light reflecting portion 20 has an asymmetry configuration which seems to be made by a portion shifted from its center. The configuration of this light reflecting portion 20 will be explained in detail referring to Fig. 90. In Fig. 90 at (a) and (b), a curved surface plate 92 shown in two-dotted lines includes a curved surface expressed by an aspheric surface expression having H as a rotation symmetry shaft. The light reflecting portion 20 is cut by a wall inclining a edge of the curved surface plate 92 by the angle ϕ in a J direction. An opening 20a of the light-reflecting portion 20 is formed in a round shape, and its center K is located in medium with a rotation symmetry shaft H of curved surface plate 92 and a center G of the light reflecting portion 20. In addition, the center K of the opening 20a almost accords with the

of the light emission source 91 viewed from its front becomes a straw bag pattern cutting both side faces. This is because the light reflecting portion 20 is designed not to rotate in a metal mold molding on molding and not to be shifted about its location by giving directivity to the light reflection portion which is not in rotation symmetry.

[0241]

The configuration of the light emission source 91 viewed from its front face is not limited to the straw bag pattern shown in Fig. 107, but may be a round shape partially cut off as shown in Fig. 108, rectangle as shown in Fig. 109, or elliptic as shown in Fig. 110.

[0242]

The optical axis of the light emitter 12 comes off from the center G of the light reflecting portion 20, and tilts to the gradient direction of the total reflection region 19.

[0243]

In this light emission source 91, the total reflection region 19 and the light reflecting portion 20 are slantly positioned as described above. As shown in Fig. 91, when the total reflection region 19 is installed to face to a slant upward direction and disturbance light such as morning sun or afternoon sun enters from a slant upward position, the light reflected by the total reflection region 19 and

can avoid inconvenience such that the light emission source 91 seems to illuminate by means of reflection light when it is turned off.

[0244]

The light emitter 12 is shifted upward from the optical axis
 5 F of the direct emission region 18, the light emitted from the light emitter 12 and passing through the direct emission region 18 is emitted to a downward area which is different from the light reflected by the total reflection region 19 and the light reflecting portion 20. The light reflecting portion 20 has the asymmetry configuration, and the
 10 light emitter 12 is shifted upward from the center of the light reflecting portion 20, so that the light, which is emitted from the light emitter 12, totally reflected by the total reflection region 19, and further reflected by the light reflecting portion 20 to be emitted through the total reflection region 19, is emitted to a downward area which
 15 is different from the reflection light in the total reflection region 19 and the light reflecting portion 20. Accordingly, the light emitted from the light emission source 91 can be surely watched from ground without prevention by any disturbance light, and it can be clearly determined whether the light emission source 91 illuminates or not.

20 [0245]

Fig. 92 shows an example of light distribution characteristic

FIG. 92 LIGHT DISTRIBUTION CHARACTERISTIC

optical axis of light emitter 12 or the medial axis of light emission source 91 to the lower part, and an asymmetry light distribution characteristic which is distributed in a narrow spectrum to tilt direction (upward) of the total reflection region 19 and a wide spectrum
5 in the opposite side (downward)

[0246]

According to such light distribution characteristic, when this light emission source 91 is used for a signal, it can be watched brightly when it is watched from far away but cannot be seen when it is looked
10 up from the neighborhood, thereby realizing an ideal illumination demanded in the signal.

[0247]

In this light emission source 91, the direct emission region 18 is formed to be the aspherical lens and the light reflecting portion
15 20 is expressed by the aspheric surface expression, so that the design of light emission source 91 is eased.

[0248]

As shown in Fig. 89, an outer circumferential edge of the light reflecting portion 20 is located in a beveling portion 25 formed at
20 a front circumference portion of mold resin 13. When the mold resin 13 is molded, the outer circumferential edge of light reflecting portion

the opening 20a of the light reflecting portion 20 so that the light reflecting portion 20 can be easily insert-molded.

[0249]

The direct emission region 18 is not limited to the aspherical lens, but may be a spherical lens if desired.

[0250]

(Fifty-second Embodiment)

Figs. 93 and 94 show front and sectional views of a signal 101 employing light emission sources 91 as described above according to a thirty-fourth embodiment.

The signal 101 is arranged by signal lamps 102R, 102Y and 102G for red, yellow and green colors, and its upper portion is covered with a hood 103. As shown in Fig. 95, in each of the signal lamps 102R, 102Y and 102G, many light emission sources 91 of the corresponding light emission color are mounted on a substrate 104 along a direction to be housed within a housing a front of which is covered with a milk-white or a semitransparent cover 106.

[0251]

Fig. 97 is a sectional view showing a configuration of a signal lamp employing conventional LEDs 107 for comparison. In the conventional LED 107, light is emitted forward on straight, so that

107 within the signal lamp to emit light downwardly. Therefore, the construction for installing the substrate 104 within the housing 105 of the signal lamp becomes complicate. The thickness of the signal lamp also becomes thick because the substrate 104 has to be diagonally
5 installed.

[0252]

According to the signal 101 according to this invention, the light emission sources 91 themselves can emit light in a downward diagonal direction as shown in Fig. 96, and the substrate 104 can be
10 installed in parallel with the housing 105 as shown in Fig. 95, thereby thinning the thickness of the signal lamps 102R, 102Y and 102G. The construction for installing the substrate 104 within each of the signal lamps 102R, 102Y and 102G becomes simple. The emission light is effectively distributed in an irradiation technical standard field
15 of signal where upward is not necessary to be irradiated, thereby realizing signal 101 employing the light emission source 91 having a high luminous efficiency. In addition, any light reflected back with the light emission sources 91 are not reflected back downward, the visual performance about the signal lamps 102R, 102 Y, and 102G
20 is improved.

[0253]

emission source which seals light emitters 12, such as a red light LED, a green light LED and a blue light LED, within transparent mold resins 13, or which seals light emitters 12 generating white light, such as a white light LED, within mold resins 13 consisting of a red transparent resin, a green transparent resin, and a blue transparent resin. According to the former proposal, even if disturbance light such as sun light is reflected back toward ground by a surface of the mold resin 13 or the light reflecting portion 20, the reflected light cannot be seen with color like when the light emission source is turned on, the reflected light is erroneously recognized as if the light emission source is turned on when it is actually turned off.

[0254]

(Fifty-third Embodiment)

Fig.98 is a front view of a light emission display 111 supported by a pole 11 according to a thirty-fifth embodiment, for example, for showing a traffic condition or a whether condition to drivers, in which letters and illustrations are composed of light emission sources 91. Figs. 99 and 100 show front and sectional views of a light emission display unit 112 providing the light emission display 111. In the light emission display unit 102, light emission sources 91 as described in the thirty-third embodiment are mounted on a substrate 113, and

of the cover 115. The light emission sources 91 are arranged on the substrate 113 in a suitable pattern so as to emit suitable color light in accordance with marks or letters to be displayed.

[0255]

5 In the light emission display unit employing conventional LED 117, the light from each LED 117 is emitted on the straight as shown in Fig. 101, so that the light emission display unit has to be declined downward for installation when it is installed on a wall or a top of a pole brace to be easily watched from a lower position.

10 [0256]

 As shown in Fig. 100, in the light emission display 111 employing the light emission sources 91 according to this invention, the light emission sources 91 themselves can emit light in a diagonal-downward direction, so that light is emitted in the diagonal-downward direction without tilting the light emission display on installation and the
15 display can be watched from ground with ease. Accordingly, the light emission display 111 can be easily installed, and become slim by thinning the same. Besides, because it is hard to become impossible to see the light emission display due to the reflection of disturbance light
20 such as afternoon sun or morning sun, according to the light emission display 111 employing the light emission sources 91 of this invention,

high luminous efficiency.

[0257]

(Fifty-fourth Embodiment)

Fig. 102 shows a sectional view of a configuration of a light
5 emission source 121 according to a thirty-sixth embodiment, in which
a mold resin 13 seals a lead frame 17 at its top end die-bonded by
a light emitter 12 and a lead frame 14 wire-bonded with the light emitter
12a, and in which a total reflection region 19 on a front flat wall
of the mold resin 13 is formed on a plane perpendicular to an optical
10 axis of the light emitter 12. This light emission source 121 is
installed so that the total reflection region 19 of the mold resin
13 is diagonally set toward a direction of disturbance light.

[0258]

In this light emission source 121, even if disturbance light
15 from a low altitude, such as the afternoon sun or the morning sun,
strikes against the light emission source 121, the light reflected
back with the total reflection region 19 of the light emission source
121 is reflected back to the original direction (upward and diagonal)
without arriving the ground, and it can be avoided that the light emission
20 source 121 seems to be turned on when it is turned off.

[0259]

emitted downward can be viewed clearly from the lower part (ground), whereby the visual recognition performance is not sacrificed. In order to ease watching the light emission source 121 from a lower part, the optical axis of the light emitter 12 in the mold resin 13 may be directed toward the lower part so as to refract the light emitted from the light emitter 12 with the total reflection region 19 for downward emission.

5

[0260]

If desired, the mold resin 13 may form a direct emission region 18 in the center of total reflection region 19 as shown in Fig. 103, which can provide same effects as those of the light emission source 121 of Fig. 102.

10

[0261]

A light emission source 134 shown in Fig. 118 is a modification of the light emission source 121 having a construction shown in Fig. 102, in which a light reflecting portion 20 having a symmetric configuration is disposed at a rearward of the total reflection region 19, and the light totally reflected by the total reflection region 19 is reflected by the light reflecting portion 20 to be emitted forward.

15

A light emission source 135 shown in Fig. 119 is a modification of the light emission source 134 shown in Fig. 118 in which a direct emission region 18 is disposed in the center of the total reflection region

20

configuration is disposed).

[0262]

(Fifty-fifth Embodiment)

Fig. 104 is a sectional view of a configuration of a light emission
5 source 123 according to a thirty-seventh embodiment, in which a mold
resin 13 seals a lead frame 17 at its top end die-bonded by a light
emitter 12 and a lead frame 14 wire-bonded with the light emitter 12a
and a total reflection region 19 on a front wall of the mold resin
13 is diagonally inclined against an optical axis of the light emitter
10 12. This light emission source 123 is generally horizontally installed
so that the total reflection region 19 (inclined plane) of the mold
resin 13 is set diagonally upward. A part of light emitted from the
light emitter 12 is refracted downward because the total reflection
region 19 is inclined. If desired, the optical axis of light emitter
15 12 may be inclined downward in order to emit more a lot of light to
a diagonal lower part.

[0263]

In this light emission source 123, even if disturbance light
from a low altitude, such as the afternoon sun or the morning sun,
20 strikes against the light emission source 123, the light reflected
back with the total reflection region 19 of the light emission source

source 121 seems to be turned on when it is turned off.

[0264]

In addition, like the light emission source 124 as shown in Fig. 105, a direct emission region 18 may be disposed in the center of the total reflection region 19 of the mold resin 13. This case
5 of the total reflection region 19 of the mold resin 13. This case can provide same effects as those of the light emission source 123 of Fig. 104.

[0265]

(Fifty-sixth Embodiment)

10 Fig. 106 is a sectional view of a configuration of a light emission source 125 according to a thirty-eighth embodiment, in which a mold resin 13 seals a lead frame 17 at its top end die-bonded by a light emitter 12, a lead frame 14 wire-bonded with the light emitter 12, and a light reflecting portion 20, and in which a total reflection
15 region 19 on a front wall of the mold resin 13 is diagonally inclined. An outer circumferential edge of light reflecting portion 20 is cut diagonally, and the configuration of light reflecting portion 20 is asymmetric above and below. This embodiment includes the light emission source 91 according to the thirty-third embodiment, wherein
20 the direct emission region 18 is deleted.

[0266]

the mold resin 13 is set diagonally upward. The light emitted from the light emitter 12 and totally reflected by the total reflection region 19 is reflected by the light reflecting portion 20, and refracted with the total reflection region 19 to be emitted downward. A part of light emitted forward from the light emitter 12 is refracted downward with the total reflection region 19. The optical axis of the light emitter 12 may be tilted downward if desired.

[0267]

In this light emission source 125, even if disturbance light from a low altitude, such as the afternoon sun or the morning sun, strikes against the light emission source 125, the light reflected back with the total reflection region 19 of light emission source 125 is reflected back to its original direction (diagonally upward) without reaching the ground, so that the light emission source 125 can be avoided from seeming to be turned-on when it is turned-off.

[0268]

In this light emission source 125, the light emitted from the light emitter 12 to a peripheral direction is totally reflected by the total reflection region 19, and further reflected by the light reflecting portion 20 to be emitted downward from the total reflection region 19, thereby improving the use efficiency of light.

Fig. 111 is a sectional view of a configuration of a light emission source 126 according to a thirty-ninth embodiment. In this embodiment, a total reflection region 19 on a front wall of a mold resin 13 is perpendicular to an optical axis of a light emitter 12, so that the light emission source 126 itself is diagonally set not to reflect disturbance light coming from a low altitude such as the afternoon sun or the morning sun to the lower part. On the other hand, a light reflecting portion 20 in the mold resin 13 has a face which is expressed by asymmetry or different aspheric surface expressions in an upper half and a lower half, whereby the light totally reflected by the total reflection region 19 and reflected back with the light reflecting portion 20 is emitted downward from the total reflection region 19.

[0270]

When thus constructed light emission source 126 is turned off and struck by disturbance light such as the afternoon sun or the morning sun, it can be avoided that the disturbance light is reflected downward by the total reflection region 19 and the light reflecting portion 20 as if the light emission source 126 is turned on.

[0271]

In a light emission source 127 of an embodiment shown in Fig. 112, a direct emission region 18 has a profile that is asymmetry in

region 18.

[0272]

(Fifty-eighth Embodiment)

Fig. 113 is a sectional view of a light emission source 128 according to a fortieth embodiment, in which a center of a direct emission region 18 is located in the center of a total reflection region 19. When the center of direct emission region 18 is located in the center of total reflection region 19 like this light emission source 128, light can be emitted diagonally downward from the direct emission region 18 by moving the position of the light emitter 12 to be arranged in a proper position (higher position than the center of direct emission region 18).

[0273]

(Fifty-ninth Embodiment)

Fig. 114 is a sectional view of a configuration of a light emission source 129 according to a forty-first embodiment, in which a whole total reflection region 19 is formed with a curved surface. The total reflection region 19 is designed to totally reflect most of light emitted from a light emitter 12, in which most of light emitted from the light emitter 12 is totally reflected backward by the total reflection region 19 and further reflected by a light reflecting portion 20 to be emitted

so that the light emitted from the total reflection region 19 can be emitted downward. The total reflection region 19 is inclined toward an upward and diagonal direction, viz., a tangent plane 130 of the total reflection region 19 is slanted toward an upward and diagonal
5 direction.

[0274]

Therefore, in this light emission source 129, most of disturbance light such as the afternoon sun or the morning sun is reflected toward approximately original direction and hard to reach a lower portion.
10 On the other hand, light emitted from the light emitter 12 is reflected several times to be emitted downward from the total reflection region 19. Accordingly, when the light emission source 129 is employed as a light emission source for a signal, it can be avoided that the light emission source 129 which is turned off is erroneously found as if
15 it is turned on. When it is applied to a light emission display, a clear image can be watched without any slant installation.

[0275]

The area of a front wall of the total reflection region of this embodiment is large in dimensions, and strong light near the optical
20 axis of the light emitter 12 in the light emitted by the light emitter 12 with a Lambert distribution is reflected by the total reflection

FIG. 10 is a perspective view of the light emission source 129 according to the present invention.

having high luminous efficiency.

[0276]

In Fig. 115, a light emission source 131 in whole is diagonally disposed toward a diagonally upward direction instead of inclining the total reflection region 19 (or tangent plane 130) toward the diagonally upward direction. Thus light emission source 131 can prevent disturbance light from being reflected downward, and emission light from the light emission source 131 can be emitted toward a diagonally downward direction.

10 [0277]

(Sixtieth Embodiment)

Fig. 116 is sectional view of a light emission source 132 according to a forty-second embodiment, in which a direct emission region 18 is disposed generally in the center of a front wall of a mold resin, and a total reflection region 19 in a coned-shape is formed around the region 18. A tangent plane 130 contacting an edge of the total reflection region 19 is inclined diagonally upward, and the angle of the total reflection region 19 from the tangent plane 130 becomes $\angle 1$ in an upper section of the total reflection region 19 and $\angle 2$ in a lower section thereof.

[0278]

disturbance light such as the afternoon sun or the morning sun entering from a low altitude is reflected toward its original direction without reaching the lower part (ground). Light is emitted diagonally downward from the light source 132 by the position of light emitter 12 and the configuration of light reflecting portion 20. Therefore, it can be avoided that the light emission source 132 turning off seems to illuminate by reflection of disturbance light.

[0279]

Instead of inclining the total reflection region 19 (or tangent plane 130) diagonally upward, a light emission source 133 in whole is disposed diagonally upward as shown in Fig. 117, in which disturbance light is prevented from downward reflection and the emission light from the light source 133 is diagonally downward.

[0280]

(Sixty-first Embodiment)

Fig. 120 is a sectional view of a configuration of a light emission source 136 according to a forty-third embodiment, in which a total reflection region 19 is disposed on a plane tilting from a plane perpendicular to an optical axis direction of a light emitter 12, a direct emission region 18 is disposed approximately in the center of the region 19, and a light reflecting portion 20 having a symmetrical

direct emission region 18, thereby emitting light diagonally downward.

[0281]

(Sixty-second Embodiment)

Fig. 121 at (a) and (b) shows front and side views of an outdoor
5 type display 141 according to a forty-fourth embodiment, in which light
emission sources 142 having a quadrangle external configuration viewed
from its front according to this invention are arranged on a substrate
143 in a matrix fashion. According to this outdoor type display
apparatus 141, the light emission sources 142 can be arranged without
10 clearance, so that the display can have a light emission face without
any clearance which is uniform on lighting and seen neatly.

[0282]

The outdoor type display apparatus 141 is installed in a high
location to face a little diagonally upward direction because each
15 front face of the light emission sources 142 is in parallel with the
substrate 143. Even if the outdoor type display apparatus 141 is
installed diagonally upward, each light emission source 142 emits light
diagonally downward, and the display can be watched clearly from a
lower position.

20 [0283]

(Sixty-third Embodiment)

FIG. 121 (a) and (b) show front and side views of an outdoor type display apparatus 141 according to a forty-fourth embodiment.

Though a light emission source is described in this embodiment, a light receiver can be applied to this embodiment. In Fig. 123, there is shown a metal mold 151 for manufacturing a light emission source, which is provided with a cavity 152 for molding a mold resin 13. The cavity 5 152 at a bottom wall thereof is provided with a pattern face 153 for forming a total reflection region 19 and a pattern face 154 for forming a direct emission region 18.

[0284]

As shown in Fig. 123, light reflecting portion 20 is inserted 10 within the cavity 152. Since the external diameter of the light reflecting portion 20 is almost equal to the inside diameter of the cavity 152, the light reflecting portion 20 can be positioned within the cavity 152 by putting the light reflecting portion 20 on the bottom wall of cavity 152.

15 [0285]

In Fig. 123 at (b), there is shown a component including a light emitter 12 die bonded on a stem 15 of a lead frame 17, and a lead frame 14 connected with the light emitter 12 by a bonding wire 16, which is produced in other process beforehand. As shown in Fig. 123 at (b), 20 the component is put within the cavity 152 with positioning the light emitter 12 downward, and upper ends of the lead frames 14 and 17 are

[0286]

With this condition, a mold resin 13 is injected within the cavity 152 to be inserted by the light emitter 12 and the light reflecting portion 20 to mold a direct emission region 18 and a total reflection region 19 as shown in Fig. 123 at (c). As the injected mold resin 13 is cooled and stiffened, it is taken out from the cavity 152 to produce the light emission device.

[0287]

According to this manufacturing process, light reflecting portion 20 can be easily positioned, and mass production for the light emission sources or the light receivers can be performed.

[0288]

Next, several applications of a light emission source according to this invention, such as a light emission source according to the embodiments shown in Figs. 3 to 21, will be described hereinafter. (Sixty-fourth Embodiment)

Fig. 124 shows a light emission display unit 161 arranged by light emission sources 162 depending on this invention as a forty-sixth embodiment. When light emission sources 163 of a cannonball type as shown in Fig. 125 at (a) are employed to provide such a display 161, the beam profile is bright around its center but dark near its periphery

[0289]

5 The light emission source 162 according to this invention,
however, can have a rectangular configuration as shown in Fig. 126,
whereby plural light emission sources 162 can be arranged without
clearance as shown in Fig. 124 and darkness is avoided to appear between
the sources 126, and its visual performance is improved. In addition,
10 in the light emission source 162 according to this invention, uniform
beam profile as shown in Fig. 4 at (a) can be provided by synthesizing
light from direct emission region 18 in a lens shape and light from
light reflecting portion 20. When pictorial image and letter is
pictured as confluence of light emission sources 162, light emission
15 points are easy to be connected each other and satiny pictorial image
and letter can be displayed.

[0290]

As another application, there may be provided a full color light emission display arranged by light emission sources respectively employing red (R), green (G), and blue (B) as shown in Fig. 127.

[0291]

having little color isolation can be provided.

[0292]

(Sixty-fifth Embodiment)

Fig. 128 shows an optical fiber coupler 164 employing a light
5 emission source 162 according to this invention as a forty-seventh
embodiment. In this optical fiber coupler 164, an optical lens 165
is interposed between light emission source 162 and an end surface
of an optical fiber 167, in which light emitted from the light emission
source 162 is focused by the optical lens 165 to the end surface of
10 the optical fiber 167 to be coupled with the optical fiber 167. The
optical lens 165 has different optical lens constants at the points
corresponding to direct emission region 18 and total reflecting region
19 in the light emission source 162, and a complex configuration with
two kinds of convex lenses 166a and 166b. The light emitted from direct
15 emission region 18 of the light emission source 162 is coupled with
the end surface of the optical fiber 167 in a central part of the optical
lens 165, and the light emitted from the total reflection region 19
is coupled with the end surface of optical fiber 167 by a circumscription
part of the optical lens 165.

20 [0293]

Thus, the light emitted from the direct emission region 18 in

surface of the optical fiber 167 by different lens parts, thereby improving the fiber association efficiency important in the system employing light emitting diodes.

[0294]

5 (Sixty-sixth Embodiment)

Fig. 129 shows a side view of a signal lamp 168 employing light emission sources 162 according to this invention as a forty-eighth embodiment, which is composed of a red signal lamp arranged by light emission source 162 of red light emission color, a green signal lamp
10 arranged by light emission source 162 of green light emission color, and an yellow signal lamp arranged by light emission source 162 of yellow light emission color. The signal lamp 168 is installed diagonally upward not to direct the reflection light of the afternoon sun by the signal lamp 168 to any vehicles. Accordingly, hate for
15 watching signal by the reflection light of the afternoon sun considered to be a problem in the signal is resolved.

[0295]

The light emission source 162 employs such a light source 34 or 35 diagonally emitting light as shown in Fig. 19 or 20, and emits
20 light toward a roadside diagonally downward. Thus, deterioration of the visual performance by the afternoon sun is prevented, and the signal

of signal, so that the emitted light is focused downward, thereby realizing a high bright signal lamp.

[0296]

A conventionally used light emission source having a cannonball
 5 configuration is limited to a certain degree to provide an asymmetrical
 beam profile due to design relying on a lens configuration. Accordingly,
 when a signal lamp employing the conventional light emission source
 is installed upward, it is hard to be watched from ground due to
 prevention against light reflection of the afternoon sun. According
 10 to this invention, however, the mirror configuration is designed to
 be asymmetrical, and position of a light emitter is shifted from its
 optical axis, thereby easily resolving it.

[0297]

(Sixty-seventh Embodiment)

15 Fig. 130 shows an advertisement signboard 170 employing a light
 emission source according to this invention as a forty-ninth embodiment.
 The advertisement signboard (illumination signboard) 170 installed
 on a wall of a building 169 as shown in Fig. 130 is designed to emit
 light downward so that the visual performance is good when it is viewed
 20 from the ground. When the advertisement signboard 170 is designed
 not to emit light toward the wall of the building in a horizontal plane

[0298]

(Sixty-eighth Embodiment)

Fig. 132 is a perspective view of a high mount strap lamp 171 employing light emission sources 173 according to a fiftieth embodiment, in which a plurality of light emission devices 173 each having about an ellipse shape as shown in Fig. 133 are aligned in a line and mounted on a laterally long substrate 174.

[0299]

The light emission source 173 for the high mount strap lamp has a same construction as that of the light emission source 24 as shown in Figs. 8 to 10, but a disc-shaped light reflecting portion 20 is inserted within a mold resin 13 by downwardly bending both ends thereof because the whole configuration of the light emission source has a laterally long front wall such as generally ellipse, oval or rectangle. The light emission sources 173 are mounted on the substrate 174 so that their major axis directions are parallel with a length direction of the substrate.

[0300]

The high mount strap lamp 171 is installed in an inside of a rear window 175 of a vehicle 172. When a driver of the vehicle 172 steps on a brake pedal, all light emission sources 173 illuminate at

When the high mount strap lamp 171 employs such laterally long light emission sources 173, oblong light can be emitted with good efficiency. In addition, the number of necessary light emission sources 173 may be reduced by making each light emission source 173 laterally long, thereby reducing the manufacturing cost of the high mount strap lamp 171.

[0302]

Several applications of a light emission source having major and minor axial directions when it is viewed from its front, such as the light emission source in the embodiments as shown in Figs. 22 to 33 will be described hereinafter.

(Sixty-ninth Embodiment)

Fig. 134 is a perspective view of a high mount strap lamp 184 according to a fifty-first embodiment, in which light emission sources according to this invention are aligned in a line and mounted, and which is installed inside of a rear window 188 of a vehicle so as to illuminate when a driver steps a brake pedal of the vehicle. The light emission source composing the high mount strap lamp 184 may employ a light emission source like each of the above-described embodiments, but the light emission source 67 shown in Fig. 41 is preferred.

[0303]

of light emitting diodes 190 in a line and emitting light thorough a scattering optical lens 191 disposed on a front wall of the lamp. In the conventional high mount strap indicator 189, a single light emitting diode 190 can emit light on a square region shown in Fig. 5 137 at (b), thereby requiring a lot of light emitting diodes 190.

[0304]

As shown in Fig. 136 at (a), the high mount strap lamp 184 of this invention employs a light emission source 185 emitting beams having the ratio of (major axial length):(minor axial direction)=2:1 and a 10 spreading optical lens 186 corresponding to a beam profile disposed in front of the source, so that one light emission source 185 can emit light from two times of emission areas by the conventional light emitting diode 190. Accordingly, the arrangement pitch of light emission sources 185 can be a half of the arrangement pitch of the conventional 15 light emitting diodes 190.

[0305]

The light emission source 185 of this invention can realize more than two times of the conventional efficiency of light use in comparison with the conventional light emitting diodes 190. When the 20 arrangement pitch is designed to be two times of the conventional light emitting diodes 190, light power emitted by each light emission source

to the high mount strap lamp 184 employing the light emission sources 185 of this invention, the number of light emission sources can be reduced to half, its assembling becomes easy by reducing the number of components number, and reduction in cost becomes possible largely.

5 [0306]

(Seventieth Embodiment)

Fig. 138 is a perspective view of a display unit 201 employing light emission sources according to a fifty-second embodiment. In the display unit 201, a lot of light emission sources 202 are arranged
10 in a matrix or honeycomb fashion, and each light emission source 202 is arranged so that its major axis direction turns to a horizontal direction. Though Fig. 138 shows a stand shape, the unit may be installed in a wall hanging type or on an external wall of a house.
[0307]

15 In the event of display unit installed in bearing height dimension of order of a person, it is preferable that the display unit can be seen from various angles in a horizontal direction as an angle of beam spread of the display unit. The display unit 201 employs the light emission sources 202 each arranged directing its major axis direction
20 in the horizontal direction, and the light itself emitted from each light emission source 202 has the directional pattern opened in a

FIG. 138 is a perspective view of a display unit 201 according to a fifty-second embodiment.

as shown in Fig. 140. Thus, a display unit having a good visual effect can be produced.

[0308]

Several applications when this invention is applied a light
5 receiver will be described hereinafter.

(Seventy-first Embodiment)

Fig. 141 is a schematic view showing a construction a
photoelectronic sensor 211 to detect the presence of an object of a
diffuse reflection type according to a fifty-third embodiment. The
10 photoelectronic sensor 211 includes a projector 212 employing a light
emitting diode, a driving circuit 213 for driving the light emitting
diode, a light receiver 214 of this invention (for example, the light
receiver shown in Fig. 30 or 31), an amplifier circuit 215 for amplifying
an output from the light receiver 214, and a processing circuit 216
15 for controlling the driving circuit 213 and receiving a light receive
signal from the amplifier circuit 215 to do distinction of the presence
of the object.

[0309]

As shown in Fig. 141, when there appears an object 217 in ahead
20 of photoelectronic sensor 211 that diffuses and reflects light and
the light emitted from the projector 212 of the photoelectronic sensor

of object 217 is received by the light receiver 214, whereby the presence of the object is determined by the processing circuit 216 and a detection signal is produced.

[0310]

5 In this photoelectronic sensor 211, detection distance of object is determined by the minimum light requirement (S/N ratio) that can distinguish the reflection light from object 217 from an internal noise of sensor. If light intensity emitted by the projector 212 is the same, the intensity of reflection light from object 217 does not change,
10 but the light receiving efficiency is improved and the light requirement is increased by using the light receiver 214 of this invention, thereby providing room in the detection. By employing this photoelectronic sensor 211, an object in a further distance can be detected and the light requirement becomes big, thereby prolonging the detection
15 distance. For example, the detection distance spreads in generally 2 times when the light requirement doubles.

[0311]

 In order to get such an effect, a large optical lens is disposed in front of a conventional photoelectronic sensor, and it is necessary
20 for condensing the reflection light in the region marked by the oblique lines shown in Fig. 141 to be received by a small light receiver.

thinned in thickness, the photoelectronic sensor 211 is miniaturized, and the number of components is reduced, thereby reducing variation of light receiving system and manufacturing cost of the photoelectronic sensor 211.

5 [0312]

This photoelectronic sensor is not limited to this reflection type, and similar effect can be performed in a transmission type photoelectronic sensor. The detection also is not limited to sensing the presence of an object, but can be applied to detecting a distance
10 (analog quantity) to an object.

[0313]

(Seventy-second Embodiment)

Fig. 142 is a sectional view of a road tack 221 according a fifty-fourth embodiment. Generally a road tack is buried in road in
15 a safety zone or crossover of road, but a conventional road tack has characteristics only reflecting back a headlight of motor.

[0314]

The road tack 221 shown in Fig. 142 houses light emission sources 222 of this invention, light receivers 223 of this invention, a battery
20 charger 224, and a drive circuit 225, a surface of which is covered by a transparent cover 227. Solar light is received by the light

by using an electric power of the battery charger 224 in the nighttime.

[0315]

According to this road tack 221, the battery charger 224 can effectively charged by employing the light receivers 223 of this invention in the daytime. The light receiver 223 can be thinned in thickness, so that the road tack 221 also becomes to thin and embedding in the road 226 is eased.

[0316]

This embodiment is described about a road tack, but may be widely applied to a self light generator in which a light unit is activated in the nighttime by using the electric energy charged in a battery charger by a light receiver in the daytime, such as a delineator or a sight line guidance light other than the road tack.

[0317]

15 (Seventy-third Embodiment)

An illuminated-type switch will be described hereinafter as an application of a light emission source employing an optical module. As shown in Fig. 146, a conventional illuminated-type switch 241 includes a plurality of LEDs 245 installed within a recess 244 disposed in a light emission unit 243 on a back side of a transparent or semitransparent cap 242 which serves as a push switch, and a diffusing

whole by the diffusing plate 246. In order to illuminate the cap 242 in whole in a large area, the illuminated-type switch 241 is necessary to have the plural LEDs 245 and the diffusing plate 246, whereby the number of components becomes large, and the switch is costly, large
 5 power consumptive, and bulky.

[0318]

Fig.143 shows a schematic perspective view of an illuminated-type switch 231, Fig. 144 shows its perspective disassembled view, and Fig. 145 shows a generally sectional view of
 10 the switch, according to a fifty-fifth embodiment. In this illuminated-type switch 231, one light emitter 12 is installed within a recess 233 disposed on an upper wall of a light emission unit 232, and an optical module 72 as shown in Fig. 47 is put to cover the light emitter 12. Above the recess 233, there is arranged a transparent
 15 or semitransparent cap 234 (a cut pattern may be formed in the rear face) which is elastically pushed upward by a spring (not shown) and held by a cap holder 235. The light emission unit 232 is mounted on a top wall of a switch body 236.

[0319]

20 In this illuminated-type switch 231, when the cap 234 serving as a push switch is depressed to be turned on, the light emitted from

module 72 to illuminate the cap 234 and the illuminated-type cap 234 is shown.

[0320]

Therefore, according to such illuminated-type switch 231, the number of components and cost can be decreased, thereby reducing the power consumption in lighting, and enabling miniaturization.

5 [0321]

In a self light generator, such as the solar cell (Fig. 33) or the road track (Fig. 110), or a light emission source of Fig. 6, a conventional photo detector or a photoelectric transducer can be combined with the optical module shown in Figs. 46 to 49 and 50 to
10 56.

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